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Air Defense Chief on Armaments, Defense Cuts

LD1304171491

[Editorial Report] Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian at 1200 GMT on 13 April broadcasts a 6-minute interview on the eve of Air Defense Forces Day with Aviation Colonel General Igor Mikhailovich Maltsev, chief of general staff and first deputy chief commander of the USSR air defense forces, by an unidentified correspondent. Reception is fair.

Maltsev is asked for his opinion on the recent popular criticism of the forces' inefficiency and whether the forces could really defend the Soviet skies. Maltsev says:

"I would like to remind our listeners again that one of the main tasks of the air defense forces in peacetime is to ward off military planes and not hooligan sportsmen. I am not saying this to defend ourselves in any way. It is simply that such small and low-speed targets present a serious problem for the air defense forces of any country. It can only be regarded as a happy state of events that the Soviet people have been living under peaceful skies for 46 years, and that during all that time the air defense forces have not had cause to use their real capacities anywhere except for on the training range.

"Therefore, the attempts by some people at making conclusions about the inefficiency of our air defense could hardly be called honorable. The references to the results of the short Persian Gulf war are not convincing proof of our experience in air defense."

Asked whether the USSR has an equivalent to the U.S. Patriot missile, Maltsev says:

"Of course we have. You know, the development of offensive weapons and the means of defense go hand in hand; maybe at each point in time one is ahead of the other, but in principle such is the law of science and technology. Therefore, it could be that we are behind in some technological aspects in certain areas of production, but in matters of armaments our defense industry has always maintained a sufficiently high level. Even our enemies agree with this."

In response to a question of how the cuts in the defense budget allocation will affect the forces, Maltsev says:

"This does not affect the quality of technology. However, it will obviously affect the capacity of the Defense Ministry to purchase the same quantities of armaments. If, for instance, we were allocated 96 billion rubles to purchase arms at 1990 prices and in 1992 the prices double, naturally this could not but affect supplies to the armed forces, including the air defense forces. I believe that not only our listeners, but also those on whom the adoption of the law on the country's budget, including that amount for defense, should be aware of this."

Conference on Destroying Chemical Arms Ends

LD1204165991 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Kondratenko]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The importance of concluding an international convention on the destruction of chemical weapons after the 1990 Soviet-U.S. agreement came into force was discussed by an international conference on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, which ended in Moscow on Thursday.

The conference also examined the technology and methods for the destruction of chemical agents and other issues. The forum was attended by scholars and experts from the United States, the USSR, Sweden, Switzerland and Poland, as well as Soviet and foreign legislators.

Conference participants noted that the method of destroying chemical weapons with energy released by an underground nuclear explosion, suggested by the international Cetek joint stock company, deserves the most serious attention as the least expensive means.

The forum supported the idea of holding a demonstration experiment to improve the technology of large-scale destruction of chemical weapons and highly toxic industrial waste.

A proposal was made to set up an international committee to appraise the results of this experiment from the viewpoint of ecological security.

The conference pointed to the importance of utilising chemical weapons and using the products of their processing in the economy.

TASS Reports Churkin 12 Apr News Briefing

'Serious Doubts' on Kurd Safe Haven

LD1204135391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1303 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)—The proposal to set up "safe havens" for the Kurds in northern areas of Iraq, with the possible deployment there of UN observers, is giving rise to "serious doubts" in the Soviet Union. This was stated at a briefing today by Vitaliy Churkin, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate.

Essentially, the diplomat continued, this would mean removing from the sovereignty of Iraq a part of its territory without its government's agreement to that, which would run counter to the UN Charter and would create a highly undesirable precedent. The setting up of "enclaves" for Kurdish refugees on the territory of Iraq will confront the Security Council with difficult problems connected with defining the boundaries and the international legal status of such a zone, as well as the ethnic composition of its population.

Noting that the Soviet position of serious concern over the fate of the Kurdish minority in Iraq remained unchanged, Vitaliy Churkin stressed that the situation that had developed required a complex approach. According to him, it is necessary to concentrate efforts on implementing the whole package of measures envisaged by UN Security Council Resolution 687, taking into account Iraq's statement about its readiness to comply with its provisions. "We favor continuing to bring to bear the potential of the UN secretary general in this matter," declared the USSR Foreign Ministry representative.

Gulf Observers 'Ready'

LD1204161191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1346 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic corresponents Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)—The Soviet observers destined to be sent to the region of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, in accordance with Resolution No. 687 of the UN Security Council, are ready and awaiting the UN secretary general's instructions. Vitaliy Churkin, head of the information office of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated this at a briefing given here today. As is known, the offer to send 20 observers to join the UN mission in the region was received by all countries that are permanent members of the Security Council.

The diplomat stressed that by agreeing to send its observers into the demilitarized zone in the region of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, the Soviet Union has taken into account, in accordance with the UN mandate imposed on the observers, that their participation in military actions is ruled out and that their main task is to create the maximum favorable conditions for searching for ways for a peaceful settlement to the conflict. Moreover, Vitaliy Churkin stressed, consideration was given to the positive experience the USSR gained by Soviet observers' participation in the UN peacemaking activities in the Near East.

'Concerned' by Powell Remark

LD1204145691 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Soviet Union is concerned about the statement by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell, who said the U.S. may carry out a military action in [El] Salvador if the current stage of negotiations on the peaceful settlement of the conflict ends inconclusively. This comment was made by a Foreign Ministry spokesman at a briefing in Moscow today.

This statement fully contradicts the conviction, repeatedly expressed by representatives of the U.S. Administration, that the attainment of mutually acceptable solutions in Salvador is only possible through political means. Such a provision is also contained in the Soviet-U.S. statement on Salvador, passed less than a month ago, he said.

According to Churkin, at a time when the Salvadoran Government and rebels are holding negotiations, the attempts to exert unlawful pressure and to whip up tensions are "destructive".

Churkin recalled that the Soviet Union firmly advocated the earliest attainment of political agreements in Salvador and the peaceful settlement in this country through negotiations.

On Gulf War Cease-fire

LD1204161791 Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—An official announcement of ceasefire between Iraq, on the one hand, and Kuwait and its allies, on the other, which is contained in a letter handed on Thursday by Paul Noterdam, chairman of the Security Council, to a permanent representative of Iraq at the U.N., draws the line under the Gulf war. This was stated by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin, who spoke at a briefing here today.

According to Churkin, this document was a response to the unconditional acceptance by the Iraqi side of Resolution 687 of the U.N. Security Council, which reflects a realistic approach of that country's leadership to the existing situation. "We hope that the officially announced ceasefire will soon lead to a perceptible lessening of tension in the Gulf zone," Churkin pointed

out. He stressed that the Soviet Union was ready to take further actions aimed at the stabilization of the situation in the region.

Statement on Afghanistan Read

LD1204162491 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Soviet spokesman Vitaly Churkin read out a statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry at a news briefing here today.

The statement says that the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan opened favourable opportunities for ending the fratricidal war, in which Afghans fight against Afghans, and for a peaceful way out of the conflict by achieving political compromises on the basis of respect for the warring parties' mutual interests.

The USSR and Afghanistan scrupulously abide by the letter and spirit of the Geneva agreements, which is demonstrated, in part, by the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan according to schedule, the statement says.

As a guarantor of the Geneva agreements, the Soviet Union seeks to do everything depending on it to switch the solution of the conflict onto to peace rails. Its permanent contacts with countries that are most heavily involved in the Afghan situation, primarily the United States, Iran and Pakistan aim to achieve this goal. An intensive discussion on disentangling the Afghan knot is under way with UN secretary general and his representatives.

The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan remain open to continued talks with the Afghan opposition of whatever orientation.

The statement expresses regret that Pakistan's interference in internal Afghan affairs and its direct backing of attempts by the extremist part of the Afghan opposition to solve the problem by power methods has not diminished but is reaching increasing proportions. The developments in Khowst signify a new twist in the esclation of the war in that country, the statement points out.

The Soviet Union is firmly convinced that the threat of the escalation of military operations in Afghanistan can still be prevented. However, this requires the most decisive actions by all those who found themselves involved in some form or other in the Afghan affairs, and a return to the spirit of constructive cooperation, which at one time made it possible to conclude the Geneva agreements.

The Soviet side believes that much will hinge here on the United Nations, which has already made a tangible contribution to defusing the Afghan conflict, on the guarantors of the Geneva agreements and the countries neighbouring on Afghanistan.

It is important in this critical moment to help the Afghans, by joint efforts and possibly by convening an international conference, cease fire, forge a dialogue with the participation of all warring parties and define effective mechanisms for the transition from war to peace.

U.S. Ties, Japan Visit Mentioned

LD1204191391 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Excerpts] Moscow April 12 TASS—Soviet Spokesman Vitaliy Churkin read out a statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry at a news briefing here today.

The statement says that the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan opened favourable opportunities for ending the fratricidal war, in which Afghans fight against Afghans, and for a peaceful way out of the conflict by achieving political compromises on the basis of balancing the warring parties' interests. [passage omitted]

Churkin said the problems that arose in the context of the Paris Treaty on the reduction of conventional arms in Europe can be "solved and our conviction that they can be solved has lately grown stronger".

On the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting scheduled for the first half of 1991, Churkin said that issues that should be tackled for the meeting to take place, primarily those concerning the reduction of strategic offensive weapons, can be solved fairly quickly.

Stating the Soviet position on the convocation of a regional conference on the Middle East, Churkin said that "the Soviet Union continues to maintain contacts with all interested sides as regards a Middle East settlement and prioritises it".

He noted, however, that some details of proposals on the Middle East and talks that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held in the region were not clear to the Soviet Union.

Churkin expressed hope that the Soviet Union would soon have a rather clear idea about relevant matters and "we could formulate our attitude towards them".

Speaking on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Japan, Churkin said the Soviet side thought it highly important.

"During the visit, many Soviet-Japanese agreements will be signed and we proceed from the fact that the visit will become a historic event in bilateral relations".

"In order to sign a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan, and we want it to be signed, the issue on a territorial division should be resolved. We continue to discuss it most seriously," Churkin said.

China

Li Peng Remarks on Bilateral Ties Viewed

OW1204214891 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0700 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Alekseyev commentary from the "Asian Affairs" program]

[Text] Sino-Soviet relations will develop along the road of good-neighborliness and friendship, but this does not mean a return to the relations of the 1950's alliance. This was said by Chinese Premier Li Peng at a news conference in Beijing. Our station commentator Alekseyev had the following comments.

The Soviet Union takes the same stand on prospects for developing relations with China. We also consider a return to the situation of the 1950's unaccepteble. Why? What was unfavorable about those days? Both the Soviet Union and China misunderstood internationalism and were forced to reject independent discussion and appraisal of questions concerning domestic and foreign policies. This not only deprived Sino-Soviet relations of sincerity and openness but also actually infringed upon both countries' sovereignty.

This caused serious complications, so serious that unfortunate things occurred. At the end of the 1950's, relations between the Soviet Union and China began to deteriorate.

I believe that under today's circumstances, that kind of abnormal situation would be ruled out. This is because, as Premier Li Peng said at his news conference in Beijing, current Sino-Soviet relations are based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which means unconditional respect for the other side's sovereignty and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Today, at a time when Sino-Soviet relations have thrown off the strait jacket of the 1950's, both Moscow and Beijing can carefully understand each other's different points of view. At least they will not regard differences as reasons to refuse to get along with each other in a friendly way.

The Soviet Union and China have set their major goal: to live in friendship and good-neighborliness and develop mutually beneficial cooperation. This goal is now being successfully reached. What is heartening is that the process of demolishing the confrontation on the two countries' common border areas has been accelerated. By the way, another round of Sino-Soviet talks on this issue started on 5 April.

The Soviet Union has hoped to cooperate with China on the world stage. Cooperation as war partners, however, is inconceivable. Cooperation must be a coordinated effort which does not affect the interests of the independent foreign policy of both the Soviet Union and China.

Northeast Asia

Gorbachev Interviewed on Visit to Japan

OW1204154091 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1100 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by NHK Chairman Keiji Shima in the Kremlin on 11 April; Gorbachev speaks in Russian throughout; from the "News Center Special Report" program]

[Text] [Begin Gorbachev recording, in Russian with Japanese subtitles; translated from the Japanese] It is undeniable that the Soviet Union and Japan are neighbors. We have looked at each other for a long time, furthering mutual relations step by step. But the cooperative relationship between us is still inadequate. There is great potential in this regard.

The two countries have had ties and interests since early times. Our nation is now interested in learning the history of present-day Japan. I understand that the people of Japan likewise have deep interest in the life and culture of this nation.

Conditions are ripe. We must not let bilateral relations remain in their current state. We must infuse more oxygen to help foster relations.

I will be the first Soviet head of state to visit Japan. I am confident that this will provide new impetus.

While in Japan, I will do my best to promote relations between our two countries. It is important that both countries overcome their preconceived ideas. [end recording]

[Announcer] As you have seen, President Gorbachev expressed a strong desire for improvement and expansion of Japanese-Soviet relations. In the interview, the president discussed prospects for Asian security. He talked about the northern territories issue and gave his views on such subjects as the critical domestic situation in the Soviet Union and the world situation in the post-Gulf war era.

We now bring you highlights of the interview.

[Begin recording] [Shima] While the Japanese people harbor extraordinary hopes for the history-making event of the Soviet head of state's visit to Japan, they also harbor certain apprehensions, because President Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Japan holds a very important meaning for both Japanese-Soviet relations and for global peace and stability. That being the case, I would like to solicit your frank comments, Mr. President.

[Gorbachev, in Russian with superimposed Japanese translation] I am very happy to have this opportunity to speak to the Japanese people before my visit to their country; therefore, I am willing to answer all questions. I

hope this interview will help make my visit a fruitful one and will help solve issues pending between the Soviet Union and Japan.

I too have high hopes for this visit. But good results cannot be obtained without cooperation by both countries, the Soviet Union and Japan. Please feel free to ask your questions.

[Shima] Mr. President, your perestroyka policy is a very important policy that has changed not only relations between the United States and the Soviet Union but also between Europe and the world as a whole. Mr. President, you have achieved your goal; I think the Japanese people and the whole world have great regard for your achievements.

Concerning Asia, Japan, the Korean peninsula, China, or the nations in Southeast Asia, however, no serious discussion has been held on the new—shall I say, framework—the framework in the new age for these nations. The Korean peninsula remains divided. Relations between the Soviet Union and China are still a major problem in Asia. Moreover, we cannot say that Indochina is enjoying normal stability.

Mr. President, if you have any special new plans or ideas on Asian security or on the questions that I have mentioned, we would like to hear your views.

[Gorbachev] I would like to note with pleasure the fact that you have raised the Asian issue as your first question. It is true that the world has made drastic moves during the past few years. With regard to these moves, our nation, the Soviet Government, has made some contributions.

It is also true, however, that in addition to the Soviet Union, other nations are also well aware of the need for a new orientation in international relations. That is to say, this orientation lies in shifting the relationship of military confrontation to one of cooperation so as to achieve a balance of interests among nations.

Moreover, this is something demanded by the times in which we live. We also think that choices made by people in each individual nation must be respected. All statesmen are well aware of this. It is precisely in such an understanding wherein lies the foundation of changes that have been taking place throughout the world. Of course, without changes in the Soviet Union itself, there would never have been such large-scale improvements in international relations.

As you have just mentioned, progress has been made in improving relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as with Europe. Moreover, great improvements are seen in our relations with Asian nations. I speak highly of developments in promoting our relations with India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and other Asian nations.

Asia is a vast and very important region. In my opinion, we are now in an age when future moves in this region will have great impact on the international community as a whole. Unless the Soviet Union and Japan come to some understanding, however, and learn to trust each other, develop friendly relations, and establish new cooperation, I do not think that efforts to improve relations in Asia will be successful.

We think it will be necessary to settle various issues in accordance with the actual situation in this region. The United Nations will probably be able to play a major role in this region; its experiences during the Gulf war will also be helpful. The experience of creating a new European security system will certainly not be meaningless for the Asian region. We must make the most of past experiences. Yet, compared to Europe, I think there are many more difficult and complicated problems in Asia. We must not forget this fact.

Nevertheless, political dialogue has begun in the Asia-Pacific region. Efforts have been made to seek ways of ending old confrontations in one form or another. This is quite obvious. Proposals have been made for the creation of a nuclear-free zone or for reducing activities by naval forces. I think these proposals have great significance. I think the two nations on the Korean peninsula will in time... [pauses] will become part of such moves. I think this is because there are prospects for normalized relations between these two nations as exchanges have begun to get under way. We would like to offer our cooperation. I think Japan must be very concerned about this issue, and it is reasonable to expect that this will be brought up for discussion at our talks in Japan.

[Shima] With regard to relations between Japan and the Soviet Union over the last 130 years, many events happened because of ideological differences or for other reasons. We had miserable wars, and we had an unhappy misunderstanding about each other, too. I would say that our relations were not necessarily favorable.

However, Mr. President, since you became president and introduced perestroyka, there has been a great change in the Japanese people's perception of the Soviet Union. At any rate, the Soviet Union is in Japan's neighborhood. More and more Japanese people have come to truly feel that as neighbors we must get along in peace and that we can truly share the same views and work together.

In this connection, my question concerns...[changes thought] As I have just mentioned, we can say that our past relations were not necessarily favorable. One of the major problems, after all, is the border issue. Now that you are trying to establish a major international order in the post-World War II era through perestroyka, and as you continue to promote perestroyka throughout the world, I want to ask you, first from various angles and then in concrete detail, what you think of the border issues pending between Japan and the Soviet Union in terms of a new Far East framework?

[Gorbachev] I have been asked the same question on many occasions recently. It is true that history has left us

with problems. It is a reality that has been determined by history. We certainly cannot look at the issue with folded arms because of past occurrences, however. There must be certain actions or decisions that conform to each era.

We will be ready to hold talks on issues of interest to the Japanese side. In this connection, we would like the Japanese side to listen to and study our views. Thus, the key to fruitful talks lies in trying to understand each other while taking the interests of the other into consideration. This is very important. So far, instead of holding talks to settle various issues, we have only tried to set our own conditions. We have only tried to set preconditons for holding talks. I think this has obstructed our political dialogue and cooperation.

With regard to the border issue, we must start by coming closer together and expanding our cooperative relations. As a result, an atmosphere which is completely different from the one which once existed will probably be created between the Soviet Union and Japan. A new relationship of trust will be created not only between politicians but also among our people, and solutions to various difficult problems will be found.

Concerning the border issue, it is part of the preparations for concluding a peace treaty. Let our two nations exert efforts in this concern. We must hold talks on all issues, including the border issue. If the border is not determined, a peace treaty cannot be signed. We will be ready to hold talks on the border issue.

As far as the border is concerned, we have a 7,500-km border with China. Therefore, it goes without saying that problems have occurred. Nevertheless, we have held talks with China on the border issue with a spirit of good will while promoting cooperation with China in all spheres.

This is my view. What is important is not setting preconditions for starting talks but actually beginning the talks themselves.

[Shima] Ever since Hatoyama's [former Japanese prime minister] visit to Moscow in 1956, we have been unable to conclude a peace treaty because, as you have just said, Mr. President, the territories issue remains unresolved. It may sound odd for me to say this because I am on the Japanese side, but Japan has taken a one-sided attitude. This time, however, I think it will be different. This time, Mr. President, you are on the opposite side. It is you, Mr. Gorbachev.

We have our own demands, just as you have yours. As you have just mentioned, we must hold sincere talks on these demands. Therein lies the new solution to all problems existing between Japan and the Soviet Union. It will not do for the Soviet side to say that something should be done if it cannot be done. In the same way, it will not do for the Japanese side to take a similar posture. Problems cannot be settled in this way. We should simultaneously make great efforts to understand the other side's position.

As for your upcoming visit to Japan, we know that this is not an everyday thing; therefore, it marks a very important turning point. We hope you regard it as a crucial turning point and will make the most of this opportunity to create, by any means, a basis for new Japanese-Soviet relations by holding thorough talks with Japan's top leaders.

[Gorbachev] With regard to this, I would like to add:

Some factors are more essential. Both the Japanese and Soviet peoples have expressed great concern over my upcoming visit to Japan and its outcome. The peoples of our two nations are well aware that many compliicated problems have been handed down to us. You said that the Japanese have high hopes about my upcoming visit to Japan and that they will be watching for developments.

The Soviet people share the same interests. Many surveys have been conducted recently in the Soviet Union on the people's understanding of Japan, as well as on bilateral issues between the Soviet Union and Japan. Moreover, lively debate continues as to how the Soviet Union should deal with Japan. At present, discussions are being held among our people on all types of problems. Problems concerning our bilateral relations are no exception. These problems concern not only the government but the people as a whole.

For one thing, I can say that Soviet society now cherishes great hopes for developing relations with Japan. People cherish the hope that as neighbors, if the peoples of our two great nations can cooperate and work together, we can attain many objectives. It is our conviction that the achievement of this would be in the interests of not only the two nations or of our own peoples but of the world as a whole. Many things can be achieved not only for a limited region but for the entire world. Since our two nations play very important roles in the world, it does not stand to reason that bilateral realtions should be left as they are now.

We are willing to discuss all issues with a sense of great responsibility and sincerity. For this purpose, we have already made our preparations. As you know, when solving any issue there are at least two approaches. First, there is the long and winding road. On this route, one most cross over a pass. Those who overcome these obstacles and advance continuously will certainly reach the top. The other path is to take a deep breath, attack the problem, and settle it.

In my opinion, issues concerning the people's destiny, like the one on relations between two nations, are not simply a question of the present but also of the future. To tackle these, we must have a sense of very great responsibility. Therefore, our two nations must approach each other step by step. While agreeing to compromises, moves have been made which promote cooperation in various fields. They include various cooperative projects in certain regions, islands, and coastal areas. Potential for cooperation is bound to take certain proper shapes in

due time. I will like to take the step by step approach. In order to build a path to our new relationship, we must emphasize the potential of our nations and peoples. I will do my utmost toward this goal.

[Shima] In reference to the perestroyka policy propounded by you, Mr. President, many Japanese think that perestroyka has encountered major political and economic obstacles; they are concerned. Mr. President, will perestroyka bear fruit? If so, how long will it take? Your comments please.

[Gorbachev] Recently I had talks with representatives of the coal miners. The talks were tough, but people spoke frankly. The representatives spoke their minds and discussed major problems related to livelihood. They also spoke about perestroyka. One coal miner said: I would like to ask the president how he intends to solve all the issues? You are not coming up with solutions, for instance, to economic, ethnic, or political issues.

To that question, I replied: In this Kuzbass coal mine, you yourselves have studied how the mine should be run. In other words, you have examined the question of whether the mine should be leased from the state, regrouped as a joint-stock corporation, or should follow some other course of action. But it has not been easy to make a decision. Now even though you are free to choose the economic form you want under the market economy, it is extremely difficult for you to decide on what kind of management you want. That is what I told them.

Then I added: As many as 300 million people live in this country. There are so many autonomous republics; a mountain of problems have accumulated in our long history. I would like you to understand how difficult it is to take action under such conditions.

Then I asked them why they were asking the president to provide immediate solutions to the coal mine's problems, problems they had been unable to solve. Though it may be possible to solve that specific coal mine's troubles, problems nationwide are huge. It might be said that people who criticize me as slow or irresolute in dealing with national problems are those who are trying to spread confusion intentionally or who do not fully understand the problems.

In the short span of time since perestroyka began, there have been very big changes. They were also quite drastic. In the six years since I was named party general secretary, questions have been asked, actively and democratically, about what progress the nation has made and what should be done to ensure that this nation grows in the future.

The first three years, in other words, were devoted to probes and studies of issues both inside and outside the nation. We began down the path of reform in 1988. Can anyone say that what has happened in the two or three years since then is so little? Was the speed of the reforms so slow?

No. The events of the past two or three years would not have occurred in 100 years under normal circumstances.

To change the economy into a new form by changing the ownership system, to change the existing union into a new union of the republics, or to create a nation ruled by law—these are things we are doing now. These are difficult and complex issues. We must not underestimate difficulties they create or responsibilties they imply. We are at a decisive stage. We cannot avoid struggles with those hostile to us or political struggles.

I am now carrying out my work under such circumstances. The form of the nation, the destiny of the people, what to do about the situation existing in the overall union, and law and order—each and every one of these questions is important. These issues are important regardless of which party a person belongs to or in what God they believe. It is important that these issues are taken up seriously regardless of political positions.

These issues should take precedence over all other things, and all efforts must be made to solve them. I am convinced that we have enough power and reason to continue the reforms. We have practical judgment, a sense of responsibility, and thoughtfulness. We have the resolve to push the reforms forward.

Of course, cooperative relationships with foreign countries are important in solving the issues. In particular, the people of Japan have abundant experience, over scores of years, in the modernization of their economy. Such experiences are very interesting to the people of the Soviet Union.

There is great potential for the cooperative relationship. I welcome the realization of the cooperative relationship between the two countries. In order to achieve it, the Soviet people must throw out their inferiority complex.

What is clear is that the Sovet Union and Japan have lived without each other's help. But there is no reason for this to continue. Let us establish a cooperative relationship; let us see what this will do for our people.

Japan is pursuing economic activities in all parts of the world. In addition, Japan is a neighbor with a huge potential and interests. It is a nation about to undertake some big steps. I would like the people of Japan to know that cooperation between the two countries will benefit you too. The people of the Soviet Union support it.

[Shima] As you know, Mr. President, all of Japan was a scorched field at the end of World War II. It had nothing; it had no resources. What it had was only people. But they worked desperately for 10, 20, 30 years. I will put aside political questions. Economically, the people of Japan now enjoy a standard of living that ranks high in the world.

In comparison, there is criticism that the Soviet Union, being a socialist nation—even though a socialist nation might have merits too—is not running its economy

rationally. Some businessmen in Japan are uneasy lest too much confusion arise if your country tries to do too much at once.

In order to alleviate these kinds of apprehensions, I hope that when you visit Japan, you will meet not only political or economic leaders but also grassroots journalists like us and the general public and demonstrate to them personally your or the USSR's direction, plan, or philosophy. That might prompt speedier improvement in Japan-USSR relations, even though you did said you would pursue a step-by-step strategy.

[Gorbachev] I feel as you do. I understand you. I want to take note with regard to Japan. Japan's experiences have shown what can be done when people set clear goals and have the ability to handle jobs given to them.

Japan's experiences have shown that any difficulties can be overcome. As you were speaking about the Japanese people, I thought about the Soviet people. The Soviet people started with a very tough situation after World War II. So many lives—the lives of people who had been so energetic—were lost in the war. Areas that had been most highly developed were destroyed during enemy occupation. A large number of towns were left in ruins. At that time, we, the Soviet people, mastered all our power and courage and rebuilt the nation in what was really a small fraction of time, when seen from a historical perspective. I remember those days. The younger generation may not know it. It was said after the war ended it would take 50 or 100 years for the Soviet Union to regain its place. We brought out our hidden capabilities in order to rebuild and develop the country in such a short time. Our efforts were very successful.

The 30th anniversary of Gagarin's space flight was observed 12 April. The success of the space flight showed that the Soviet Union had a great deal of potential in intelligence, science, and technology. Our people did all this in a very short span of time.

On the other hand, there has been the problem of missed chances. When big changes in the world economy began, aided by development in science and technology, we failed to go along with the changes. Specifically, it became clear that there were limits to the capabilities of the system we were using. The system dampened the self-motivation of the people and hindered society's development. It was necessary to think about shifting to a new style.

Inherent in perestroyka is the idea of creating political and economic conditions so that existing goods are redistributed fairly. To be sure, one of perestroyka's objectives is to establish social fairness. But social fairness cannot be discussed when there are no goods waiting to be distributed. To produce goods, we must work in new ways. It is necessary to introduce material incentives to encourage people's self-motivation. This must be done by combining development of science and technology and the new economic system efficiently. We intend to implement all of these.

There are voices that say that when implementing perestroyka there must be a plan or that the system which is currently stable and working not be destroyed until a new system is ready. I am aware that such criticism exists in Japan, too. This criticism is well-founded. Though delicate in form, the criticism is to the point.

I know that the Japanese have learned from our experiences. For instance, Japan has used our experiences in drawing up and implementing major national plans. Among these are the improvement of industrial infrastructure or the concentration of resources on research and development of science and technology. When you hear our economy or science representatives make statements, you understand them readily.

I have said many things, but this does not mean we have always made correct decisions. It is possible that we have made some errors. Anyway, we have stumbled along and arrived at a stage where we must prepare specific plans of action. The cabinet has drawn up a countercrisis program. This program contains various measures to stabilize the economy, aimed at ending confusion and preventing further economic decline and at stabilizing executive and administrative organizations, thus enabling them to function more adequately.

In addition, the program also contains measures to enable the people to display aggressiveness and to push the transition of the economy into a market economy—in other words to spur people into economic activity.

[Shima] As you know, the Gulf War has ended with a one-sided victory for the multinational forces. It has been reported in various quarters, however, that there is apprehension, not only among the Japanese people, but also throughout the world over the fact that the U.S. alone has become very powerful militarily, that the balance that used to exist between the U.S. and the Soviet Union has broken down, and that, as a result, various problems have arisen in creating a new overall global security system.

Now, Mr. President, for your part, what do you think of international relations in the post-Gulf war period, particularly of your relations with the U.S.?

[Gorbachev] I think your question is of great interest. There are varying opinions on this issue. There are people both inside and outside the U.S. who have voiced criticism of the U.S. Government policies in the past few years. On the other hand, there are people who have stated without reserve that the Gulf war proved that the U.S. is now the only remaining superpower capable of playing its leadership role in the world. Anyway, people have different views.

It is fortunate, however, that President Bush himself does not take this position. I have a high regard for President Bush's position.

In other words, the new diplomatic policy has ultimately won in the Gulf war. During the Gulf war, every action

taken conformed to the will of the United Nations. In accordance with UN resolutions, we all acted as we did to prevent Iraq from staying in Kuwait. When the military situation deteriorated, we were able to prevent a situation in which Iraq might have been destroyed as a nation, thanks to UN decisions.

As for human losses, the war did not end without victims. The war did end, however, without too many casualties. In other words, we can say that the UN mechanism worked quite well at various stages of the war. I think this has been a great success. If we had failed to endure the trial of the Gulf war, the whole picture would be quite different. I think we would have turned back to the past.

As far as military strength is concerned, I think the balance of global military strength has not been overturned. Even when what has actually happened during the Gulf War is taken into consideration, we cannot draw the conclusion that the balance in the military strength has changed qualitatively.

What is most important is that no damage was done to disarmament accords, for example the one on reducing conventional military strength in Europe or the one reached with the U.S. on a 50-percent reduction in nuclear weapons. All these measures are being taken continuously, and I feel that military confrontation will actually be relaxed. Changes have come to political as well as military organizations in Europe. Both the Warsaw Pact and NATO change in due course. Concerning disarmament, I think that all nations, including the U.S., have taken a responsible approach.

In our relations with the U.S. we maintain a relationship that might be called one of good partners. We feel that we should set a great deal of stock in such a relationship.

Furthermore, I think it is about time that we think about eliminating military confrontation in the Asia-Pacific region. We will have to tread a thorny path, but many nations have expressed their deep concern. Several ideas have been proposed for ending confrontations. We feel that we will be able to deepen our understanding of one another. I feel that the Soviet Union, the U.S., and Japan can cooperate in eliminating military confrontation in their efforts to maintain peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

[Shima] Mr. President, since you are taking the trouble to visit Japan, I would request that you hold genuine talks so that the peoples of both our nations can clearly understand that Japan and the Soviet Union have entered a new age in bilateral relations. In the truest sense of the word, we, the Japanese people, welcome your visit to Japan. Thank you very much for granting us this interview today.

[Gorbachev] Thank you very much. I will be meeting the Japanese people on television before my visit to Japan, right? I look forward to actually meeting the Japanese people in Japan once again. I think I have been able to state my feelings frankly today. [end recording]

Senior Diplomat Terms Visit 'Historic'

LD1504080891 Moscow TASS in English 0726 GMT 15 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Yevgeniy Aleksandrov]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—A senior Soviet diplomat predicted that President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan tomorrow will be "truly historic".

Aleksandr Panov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Directorate for Pacific and Southeast Asian Countries, was speaking in a TASS interview.

"Mikhail Gorbachev's visit should be truly historic. It will be the first-ever trip by a Soviet head of state to Japan. Never before have so many, wide-ranging and substantial agreements been planned," he said.

Panov said that 14 agreements are already completely ready to be signed. They provide for bilateral cooperation to branch out into a number of new areas, as well as to expand markedly in traditional lines of joint work.

Panov said that a final Soviet-Japanese statement is also ready, a document he described as forward-looking and encompassing both bilateral relations and international cooperation.

The programme for Gorbachev's stay in Japan is all finished as well, according to Panov. Dominated by talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, it also includes meetings with staff at Japanese universities, organisers and participants of a children's summit in Tokyo, and members of former Japanese POW organisations.

On Wednesday, Gorbachev and Kaifu are to attend a gala concert of Soviet performing artists. The visit will draw to a close on Friday, with the Soviet president's trips to the ancient Japanese capital Kyoto and to Nagasaki, which went through a U.S. atomic bombing in August 1945.

Panov noted the exceptionally high significance attached in Japan to the Soviet leader's visit. He said a Japanese public committee has been formed to welcome Gorbachev. It includes representatives of all political parties, mass organisations, the business community, and the journalistic profession.

Panov also noted the creation of a Japanese-Soviet friendship society of some 150 MP's [members of parliament] from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which, he said, indicates much about the present stage of bilateral relations.

Gorbachev, Delegation Depart for Japan 14 Apr

LD1404103391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr (TASS)—USSR President M.S. Gorbachev left Moscow for Tokyo today on an official

visit at the invitation of T. Kaifu, prime minister of Japan. The Soviet head of state is accompanied by USSR Foreign Minister A.A. Bessmertnykh; Minister of Culture N.N. Gubenko; B.M. Isayev, deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet; K.F. Katushev, USSR minister for foreign economic relations; RSFSR Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev; V.P. Lukin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet International Affairs Committee; M.E. Nikolayev, chairman of the Yakutskaya-Sakha Soviet Socialist Republic; V.M. Falin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, head of the CPSU Central Committee international section, and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet International Affairs Committee; and A.N. Yakovlev, senior adviser to the USSR president.

M.S. Gorbachev will stop over in Khabarovsk on his way to Tokyo.

At the airport the head of the Soviet leadership was seen off by Vice President G.I. Yanayev; USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman A.I. Lukyanov; USSR Prime Minister V.S. Pavlov; members of the USSR Security Council, including V.V. Bakatin, V.A. Kryuchkov, Ye. M. Primakov, B.K. Pugo, and D.T. Yazov; V.A. Ivashko, deputy general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and other officials.

Also among those seeing him off were Kh. Sigeta, charge d'affaires of Japan in the USSR, and Kong No-myong, ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

Volskiy Comments on Possible Hydrogen Plant

OW1404110191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Arkadiy Volskiy, an adviser to Soviet President Gorbachev on overseas economy, said today in an exclusive interview with NHK that the Soviet Government plans to build an integrated energy production complex, including a nuclear power plant, on Shikotan Island, one of the four northern islands.

Volskiy is also president of the Soviet League of Scientific and Industrial Association, which is equivalent to the Federation of Economic Organizations in Japan.

In the interview, Mr. Volskiy said that he recently spoke with a delegation consisting of representatives of 54 Japanese companies in Moscow. He talked with them about economic cooperation between the two countries.

[Begin Volskiy recording, in Russian fading into Japanese translation] I would consider the proposal that our side made—the creation of an atomic-hydrogen complex in the northern territories—to be very important. From our point of view, the Island of Shikotan would be the most favorable site for this purpose. [end recording]

Mr. Volskiy thus spoke about details of his plan to build a nuclear power plant and a hydrogen fuel manufacturing plant underground on Shikotan Island. Hydrogen fuel is said to be the fuel of the future.

His plan is to send energy produced there to the Soviet Union via Hokkaido, as well as to Japan. However, he did not go into the territorial issues and did not make clear whether he assumed the Island of Shikotan to be under the joint control of Japan and the Soviet Union or to remain under the Soviet Union.

A senior official of the Agency of National Resources and Energy of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said he has never heard of such a plan and expressed his perplexity. He said that the first thing to do about the northern territories is to return them to Japan and that there is no way for Japan to study such a plan for a nuclear power plant or any other ideas when the territorial issue remains unresolved.

Mr. Volskiy said at a news conference later that if Mr. Gorbachev's visit had been planned two months earlier, negotiations between Japan and the Soviet Union would have been very different. He thus gave his view that last month's national referendum greatly affected Gorbachev's position in negotiations with Japan over the northern territories issue. In the referendum, more than 70 percent of the Soviet voters opposed the return of the territories.

U.S. Seen Pressuring Japan on USSR Talks

PM1504090191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 91 Union Edition p 5

[Correspondent S. Agafonov report: "'The Opinion Exists...'"]

[Text] Tokyo—It is only a matter of days until the Soviet president arrives in Japan, and it is all the more interesting to observe the latest adjustments being undertaken in Tokyo before the start of the Soviet-Japanese summit dialogue. Not that any revolutionary moves are taking place, but, mindful of the fact that the substance of bilateral contacts is fragile and not too extensive, even nuances assume great significance. Of considerable interest from this viewpoint is the series of "leaks" which have found their way into the pages of Japanese periodicals concerning the U.S. approach to the prospects for Soviet-Japanese relations.

You get the general feeling that, despite ostentatious support for the very fact that the Soviet leader is coming to Japan and for the opportunities which this visit opens up for expanding the Moscow-Tokyo dialogue, there is serious U.S. concern and even suspicion in connection with the upcoming event. This discomfort is founded on anxious expectations that a "too independent" dialogue might take place in Tokyo, in which U.S. interests—both regional and global—will find themselves marginalized. Mindful of European examples in recent years, when Moscow diplomacy displayed enviable promptness and

flexibility in building "two-way bridges" with the continent's leading powers, such concern appears valid and logical.

Another factor is closely linked with this one. Right up until the present day Japanese foreign policy steps and initiatives have fitted into the framework outlined by the generalized concept of "Western strategy," in which the solo role belonged to Washington. Now the "West" no longer exists in its former monolithic form, having given way to a multipolar structure in which everyone is a soloist. Claims to "individuality" have already been lodged by practically all the members of the "Western Club" except Japan, which has not yet had an opportunity to display such individuality. Gorbachev's coming to Tokyo provides precisely this opportunity, and it cannot, moreover, go "unclaimed," as Japan remains the only major world power not yet to have arranged contacts with the Soviet leadership of the epoch of perestroyka.

Under these conditions diplomatic improvisations on both sides are expected and are even inevitable, and the Americans should hardly be judged harshly for trying to anticipate these improvisations in a definite manner. How is this manifested? Above all, in a series of statements made by eminent Japanese figures who visited the United States prior to Gorbachev's arrival. It was visited by the Japanese foreign minister, the ruling party's general secretary, and the prime minister, each of whom (after meeting with the U.S. leadership) deemed it necessary to emphasize that the "Soviet dimension" in Japanese foreign policy will shape up with strict regard for the U.S. factor and the fact that relations with the United States are pivotal and fundamental to Japan. Such deliberate emphasis on the strength of Japanese-U.S. ties can attest to just one thing—even the hypothetical likelihood of a Soviet-Japanese rapprochement provokes a nervous reaction in Washington.

However, it is not only a matter of statements. As the Japanese newspaper MAINICHI reported, it managed to procure documents from which it follows that Washington has put a package of "recommendations" directly to Tokyo with regard to how to conduct the dialogue with the Russians. The following positions, in particular, figure in this package: Japan must show caution with regard to any Soviet proposals concerning the elaboration of a new security system in the Asia and Pacific region; in talks on the territorial question Japan must not impose the condition of the demilitarization of the four islands following their return or promise that units of the "self-defense forces" will not be deployed there and that the Japanese-U.S. "security treaty" will not operate; in the talks Japan should avoid questions concerning changes to the military balance in the region; in discussing questions of economic cooperation, it is desirable to link projects with conversion in the USSR to prevent a strengthening of the Soviet military industry.

All these positions, so MAINICHI points out, were conveyed to the Japanese side through diplomatic channels via Armacost, the U.S. ambassador to Tokyo, and during meetings between Nakayama, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, and his U.S. colleague Baker. People in the know point out, however, that this is the far from complete "package." But even what there is is quite enough, in principle, to understand the approximate range of U.S. concerns. In this case it is pointless to make comments—it is necessary, at the least, to wait for the results of the Soviet-Japanese talks in order to understand how closely these recommendations will be taken into consideration. However, it makes sense even now to recall events of almost 40 years ago, when a series of U.S. diplomatic demarches and intrigues "hobbled" the Japanese at the time of the talks on the restoration of diplomatic relations with the USSR and, in a certain sense, forced Tokyo to place the territorial question on the agenda of relations with Moscow in precisely the form in which it is present now. In the mid-fifties the situation in the world was quite different to what it is now, but even then the potential mutual understanding and closeness between Japan and the Union were extremely undesirable for the Americans.

During those distant years they succeeded in putting a major "spoke in the wheel" and kept Tokyo on a "short leash." Today, it seems, a repetition is planned. Will it really work?...

Near East & South Asia

Official Statements Issued on Kurds' Plight

CPSU Secretariat Statement

LD1304181791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1740 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr (TASS)—A statement released here today by the press center of the CPSU Central Committee says that "the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee is receiving letters from Soviet and foreign citizens protesting the persecution of the Kurdish population of Iraq".

"Having been turned out of house and home, many of them have become refugees within their own country or are seeking shelter in foreign parts. The CPSU Central Committee Secretariat shares the feelings of Communists and other Soviet citizens over the tragedy of the hundreds of thousands of Kurds in Iraq who have suffered because of the civil conflict. Whatever the reasons may be, the calamities which have befallen these people, most of whom are women, children, or the elderly, cannot be tolerated. We cannot remain indifferent or unconcerned by their fate.

"To wage a punitive war which causes mass bloodshed, the loss of countless human lives, and the emaciation of

the country's already ruined economy is incompatible with the principles of justice, human rights, and morality.

"The CPSU Central Committee Secretariat supports the aspiration of Soviet people to find ways of rendering humanitarian assistance to the suffering Kurdish refugees. It shares the conviction, which has also been made manifest in this instance, that in our mutually dependent world all grief is mutual".

End to 'Murder' Demanded

LD1204160991 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS— "The entire world community should demand decisively that Saddam Hussein stop the murder of people immediately," Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, said in a TASS interview today.

The Iraqi regime used the entire might of its military hardware against Kurds. "The whole people were evicted from their ancestral land. Men, women and children continue to die. The threat of a total extermination of the whole people is obvious. "The Kurdish people are neighbours of the Soviet Union. We should act decisively in their defence and give assistance within our powers," Kapitsa said.

He noted that the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee had already issued a statement, denouncing the terror organised by Saddam against the Kurdish people.

Kapitsa thinks that the world community should react more decisively to Saddam's crimes. "The world community should teach the "aggressor a good lesson and force the Iraqi regime to halt the physical extermination of its people," Kapitsa stressed. He pointed to the possibility of using force on the part of the United Nations in case Saddam continued to eliminate his own people.

"Men, women and children are being killed by the one who has already involved Iraq in two wars and caused terrible suffering. An end should be put to this," he said.

'Cautious Approach' Urged

PM1204150191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 91 Union Edition p 5

[IZVESTIYA Press Service report under the rubric "The Kurds' Tragedy: The World Sounds the Alarm": "Situation Developing Dramatically"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Answering a question from IZVESTIYA correspondent G. Charodeyev, Yu. Gremitskikh, first deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, said:

"A very cautious approach evidently ought to be taken to examining the proposal to create safe havens for the Kurds in northern districts of Iraq with the possible deployment of UN observers there, since this would essentially signify the removal from Iraq's sovereignty of a part of its territory without the consent of its government—which would run counter to the UN Charter. In addition, the creation of enclaves on Iraqi territory would face the UN Security Council with the need to resolve complex problems with regard to defining the borders and the international legal status of zones of this kind, the ethnic composition of their population, ties with the Kurdish districts of Turkey and Iran, etc."

Kurds' Plight, Wider Mideast Problems Viewed

PM1404174191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 91 First Edition p 5

["Editorial Commentary:" "Snail of Diplomacy"]

[Text] The Kurds—a people who have suffered much—have become the latest victim of the military-political cataclysms rocking the Near and Middle East. Their uprising defeated, fleeing from the repressions of the Iraqi regime, hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees headed for neighboring Turkey and Iran, abandoning their property, homes, and land. Many are doomed to certain death.

Unfortunately, tyranny and violence still call the shots in the region. The Kuwaitis ended up among smoldering ruins after the conflagration of the Iraqi aggression. The Palestinians, whose lands are under the yoke of the Israeli occupation, have been deprived of their homeland. The Lebanese, who have not recovered from Tel Aviv's attacks and internal strife, have not found peace. The world is now witnessing the latest act in the Kurdish tragedy.

However, a UN Security Council resolution was adopted 3 April laying the foundation for a settlement of the Gulf crisis, and the Security Council also condemned the repressions being perpetrated against the civilian population in Iraq, particularly in areas inhabited by Kurds. The agreement on an official cease-fire in the conflict zone was officially declared to have entered into force 12 April. UN troops will occupy positions between Iraq and Kuwait, opening the way for the complete withdrawal of the multinational forces, their mission completed. At the same time contacts are under way as regards a global settlement of all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

You would have thought that real opportunities were opening up to suppress the violation of international law and ensure and guarantee security and a worthy life for all peoples in the region. In U.S. President G. Bush's opinion, four "challenges" have to be met in order to establish peace there. They are the creation of a regional security system, control over the proliferation of mass-destruction weapons, the assertion of the "land for peace" principle, and economic progress for the region's countries.

The need to resolve these fundamental problems, including the Palestinian problem, is incontrovertible. But that is not the only problem that has been relegated to the back burner or shrouded in silence. The U.S. position contains plenty of "buts." For instance, U.S. "allies and friends" in the Near East are supposed to bear the "main responsibility" for security, even though imbalance is unacceptable in a collective security system. Israel somehow silently slips out of the sphere of control over the proliferation of mass-destruction weapons. It torpedoes the principle of "land for peace" since it makes annexationist demands on Syrian and Palestinian territory. The region's economic development is generally regarded as linked to the United States and the West.

The main point is that the development of the situation in the Near and Middle East, which is taking a tragic turn in the history of the Palestinians and the Kuwaitis as well as the Kurds, requires a rapid response. It is not words but actions that are needed—the implementation of the adopted resolutions. However, the famous UN Security Council Resolution 242 will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its nonfulfillment next year. At this rate there is a danger that the snail of diplomacy will find itself in the midst of more smoldering ruins, instead of attaining a settlement.

The threat of annihilation already looms over the Kurdish people. Soviet people's appeals to PRAVDA on this score are filled with alarm. In particular, a statement from the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa resolutely urges international government and public organizations and people of good will to do everything they can to restore peace and tranquillity in Iraq.

Commentaries Assess Baker's Mideast Tour

IZVESTIYA on Conference Idea

PM1504084991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 91 Union Edition p 5

[Correspondent D. Velikiy report: "What the Conference on the Near East Is To Be Like"]

[Text] Cairo—U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker has held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. It is reported that the possibility of an Arab-Israeli settlement was among the main questions discussed.

Let us recall that J. Baker arrived in Cairo after reaching agreement in principle in Tel Aviv on the question of holding a regional conference, in which Israel, a number of Arab states, the United States, and the USSR would participate. However, the reaction of many Arab countries to this idea may be called highly skeptical. Thus, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid told journalists of the Arab Republic of Egypt's adherence to the idea of holding an international conference on an Arab-Israeli settlement package and its fundamental issue—the Palestinian issue. The conference must be held under UN auspices with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members. At the same time, the Egyptian minister emphasized, Palestinians must enjoy the right to freely choose their own representatives to defend the Palestinian people's interests in any negotiations. As for the process of a peace settlement, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid declared that it must without fail include the return of the Israeli-occupied territories.

At the same time the Egyptian foreign minister expressed readiness to discuss any proposals aimed at achieving a just Near East settlement. With regard to the latter statement commentators concur that under certain circumstances Egypt could still display flexibility on the question of a regional conference if the Palestinian question is tackled in full there.

Thus, it is possible to state that the idea of a regional conference, in the form in which it is proposed by the United States and Israel, has encountered rather tough opposition from Arab states. However, it seems that it is too soon to bury this idea, for the U.S. secretary of state is continuing to promote it actively.

PRAVDA on Emerging Compromise

PM1504101591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 91 Second Edition p 6

[Correspondent V. Belyakov report: "Has a Compromise Emerged? Baker's Trip to Near East Ends"]

[Text] Cairo—Time puts everything in its place. The Kuwaiti crisis completely dominated Near East politics for seven months, but the allies only had to expel the Iraqi occupiers from Kuwait and tackle problems relating to the postwar system in the region for it to once again become obvious that peace and stability in the Near East are impossible without the settlement of the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker's latest tour of the countries of the region this week illustrated this truism. The main attention in the course of this tour was focused on the quests for a settlement.

One would have thought that if both sides—the Arabs and Israel—do indeed want peace, they should come to the negotiating table. But disagreements would invariably emerge in their approach to the form of the talks. The Arabs would insist on convening an international peace conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council. An international conference, because the whole series of problems relating to a settlement cannot be resolved on a bilateral basis.

Take, for example, the Palestinian refugees. Hundreds of thousands of them have sought refuge in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt and the fate of these people can only be resolved on a collective basis. Or take occupied East Jerusalem. There are Muslim sacred places in this city, and no one is entitled to determine its status on their

own. As for the role of the United Nations, Arabs saw this organization as an intermediary and a guarantor of potential agreements.

Israel resolutely disagreed with this. It rejected an international conference which, in its opinion, might impose unpleasant decisions on the Israelis, and advocated direct talks with each of its Arab neighbors.

However, a month ago Israel launched a trial balloon: A conference is possible, but not a broad-based conference under UN auspices; rather a strictly regional conference involving just the directly interested parties. The U.S. diplomatic service also elaborated this idea over subsequent weeks. At the close of Baker's talks in Israel it was announced that Tel Aviv agrees to holding a regional conference provided this conference leads to direct talks.

It must be said that the Arab states have of late entertained the possibility of direct talks on resolving bilateral problems being held within the framework of an international conference. So, a definite compromise seems to have emerged on the question of whether matters should be resolved collectively or face to face: Both these methods must be combined.

The following scenario is consequently emerging hot on the heels of the trip, which ended today: A regional peace conference involving the USSR and the United States. I would remind you that this was precisely how the first, albeit unsuccessful, attempt of this kind in Geneva looked after the October 1973 war. However, the Arabs regarded this idea guardedly.

Gorbachev Envoy Visits Afghanistan for Talks

LD1304232491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr (TASS)—It is officially reported here that a Soviet delegation led by Oleg Baklanov, personal representative of the USSR president, visited Kabul on 10-13 April.

An exchange of views on issues of mutual interest took place during the meetings and conversations with Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Khaliqyar, the prime minister, and other Afghan figures.

It was stressed that the traditional friendship between the Soviet and Afghan peoples is very important to our countries and to the strengthening of stability in this region of Asia.

East Europe

Poland Troop Withdrawal Talks Proceeding Slowly

LD1204214291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Report by correspondent Yuriy Ulyanov in Warsaw including recorded remarks by V.A. Kopteltsev, head of the Soviet delegation at the talks with Poland on troop withdrawal; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Ulyanov] The talks are proceeding slowly and with difficulties. First, there is the issue of timing. The Polish side from the outset, that is last November, declared that the withdrawal of Soviet troops should be concluded in 1991. We proposed late 1994. Then we agreed to the middle of 1994, and then—late 1993. This year it is simply unrealistic to implement a complete withdrawal because of the large volume of material and technical resources. Furthermore, our military command considers it wrong to cut off the Soviet troops from our country that are being withdrawn from Germany. [Video shows negotiations; military vehicles; servicemen]

Second, the property, finance, and legal problems have not yet been solved. After all, over 46 years entire military towns, with airfields, bases, storage facilities, housing, schools, and municipal services enterprises have been built in Poland using our resources.

But we cannot simply sit and wait for the conclusion of the negotiations. As agreed between the Governments of Poland and the Soviet Union, the withdrawal of troops has to all intents and purposes begun. Some subunits of airmen, air assault troops, anti aircraft troops, and tankmen have left the Polish Republic. A missile brigade is leaving. In the immediate future the Polish side will have seven military garrisons at its disposal. [Video shows Soviet and Polish officers saluting; troops march past; servicemen waving with flowers from a train wagon; waving crowd of people]

But what's happening at the talks?

[Kopteltsev] The present—sixth—round of negotiations took place in a favorable atmosphere, thanks to Prime Minister Bielecki's recent visit to Moscow and the coming visit by President Walesa. It has shown that we, albeit slowly, are progressing along the road of mutual understanding. Of course, the more details of the issues you go into, the greater is their variety, but I am convinced that we will reach a mutual understanding with the Polish side.

Serbian Delegation Discusses Economic Cooperation

LD1304213591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1330 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, April 12 (TANJUG)—The Soviet Federal Governmemt will keep trying to have this year become 'transitional' to the convertible way of payments in its economic relations with Yugoslavia, Vitaliy Doguzhiyev, the Soviet first deputy premier, said here today.

Doguzhiyev stated so in a talk with Velimir Radivojevic, deputy premier of Yugoslavia's Republic of Serbia, whose delegation discussed economic cooperation in the past two days in Moscow.

In this way, upheld was the option of Serbia and Russia, the largest republics in the two countries, to exchange goods and services on the non-currency basis this year.

The Soviet Union is Yugoslavia's biggest foreign-trade partner with a volume of two-way exchange [word indistict] six billion clearing dollars. In this exchange, Yugoslavia had a surplus of close to two billion [word indistinct] dollars in 1990 only.

Serbia and Russia have signed an agreement on setting up a joint bank to carry into practice their agreement on exchanging goods and services worth at least one billion dollars this year.

Ivan Silayev, premier of Russia, this evening accepted the invitation to visit Serbia. The two republics have problems in common Silayev said while talking to Serbia's delegation, ascertaining that Serbia and Russia are in favour of preserving federal states in both countries.

Slovak Party Delegation's Visit Summarized

PM1504075791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 91 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A delegation from the Party of the Democratic Left (Slovakia) headed by its chairman, Slovak National Council Deputy P. Weiss, was in the USSR 7 through 10 April at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Slovak comrades met in Moscow with G.V. Semenova, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and V.A. Kuptsov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and in Kiev with S.I. Gurenko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. During the talks questions of interparty cooperation and the development of ties between the public in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, and in the Ukraine and Slovakia were discussed. The importance of left-wing forces actively participating in the process of shaping good-neighborly relations between the two countries' peoples was stressed.

P. Weiss was received by Soviet Vice President G.I. Yanayev 9 April.

West Europe

Pavlov Heads Delegation to European Bank Opening

LD1404194291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Apr 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] USSR Prime Minister Pavlov left Moscow today for London to participate in the opening of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. [passage omitted]

It is expected that the heads of state and government of 30 European countries will take part in the new bank's opening ceremony. The Soviet Union's delegation, headed by USSR Prime Minister Valentin Sergeyevich Pavlov, arrived in London today. Interviewed by "Vremya," he said in particular:

[Begin recording] We hope that this will be one of the first steps, and a considerable one, toward the formation of joint institutions, all the more in what I would call such a conservative area as finance and banking. For that reason, these instruments will indeed promote the formation of what I would say is an integrated Europe, from the economic point of view, and that is why we attach such great significance to the formation of the new bank. We hope that we shall worthily represent all aspects of economic life in it. [end recording]

Discusses Aid With EC's Delors

LD1504083691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0749 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] London, 15 Apr (TASS)—USSR Prime Minister V.S. Pavlov had a meeting with European Commission President J. Delors, who is taking part in events connected with the inauguration of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

They examined the progress being made in implementing the decisions of the Rome session of the European Council of heads of state and government of the EC member countries, regarding aid to the Soviet Union for the implementation of its economic reforms. The head of the EC's supreme executive body was informed about the current situation in the USSR and the measures which the Union Government is taking to surmount the crisis.

The participants in the meeting called for the conclusion, already this year, of an agreement between the USSR and the EC which, while providing for the development of political dialogue, would regulate all aspects of trade and economic ties and would reflect the aspiration of the sides to develop cooperation in cultural and humanitarian spheres. They stressed that the adoption of such a document would correspond to the maximum extent with the new realities in Europe and would be an important contribution to the practical development of the stipulations of the Paris Charter. There was an exchange of views on the mechanism by which the EC will extend technical assistance to the Soviet Union to help it switch to a socially orientated market economy and to achieve the earliest possible stabilization of the economic situation in the Soviet Union.

J. Delors wished the Soviet Union success in stabilizing the situation in the country and accomplishing large-scale socioeconomic reforms.

Threat of NATO Rapid Deployment Force Viewed

LD1304155391 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 13 Apr 91

[By TASS observer on military issues Vladimir Bogachev]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The proposal of the NATO Military Committee on the creation of a new rapid deployment force with a strength between 70,000 and 100,000 can be regarded as a step towards the revision of the main provisions of the London declaration on the renewal of the North Atlantic Alliance, adopted last July.

NATO's leaders stressed at their London meeting that security can be ensured not exclusively by military means, announced their intention to strengthen the political component of the alliance and set the task of bringing their military strategy into line with new conditions in Europe. The creation by NATO of a powerful rapid deployment force will call into question the sincerity of all those statements.

A paradoxical situation is being created. The Soviet Union is pulling out its troops from Eastern Europe and, seeking to ease the concern of the Western countries, is moving to the East primarily strike airforce, strike airborne and other airborne units with weapons and military hardware, while NATO is going at the same time to beef up the rapid deployment force, including air-transported units, which are capable of being engaged in battle in less than no time anywhere from the ice fields of the Arctic region to mountains in the southeast of Turkey, REUTERS wrote.

Even U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney admits that a threat of a Soviet sudden attack on Western countries is practically non- existent. Nevertheless, NATO is going to step up the threat of a sudden use of force against the Soviet Union.

A destabilising effect of these forces on the situation in Europe can be perceptibly reduced neither by promises of NATO generals to bring down a total strength of their troops, nor by assurances that their mission will consist mostly in settling crisis situations before they develop into armed conflicts. The question arises: against whom will they be directed? Or, perhaps, they will be used in the Soviet Union?

The Pentagon announced last September that as a result of the normalisation of a military-political situation in Europe there is no need any longer to maintain the ability of the U.S. armed forces to transport to Europe ten divisions in ten days. Now, perhaps, the mission of the troops is being changed, and NATO intends to deploy in Western Europe five or six divisions, specially prepared for an aggression.

Many military specialists believe that nowadays the maintaining of stability and the ruling out of a possibility of unpredictable actions of one side against the other are much more important for ensuring security than even military superiority. Some time ago NATO military leaders seemed to be coming to the same conclusion. However, the recent decision of the NATO military committee about creating an additional rapid deployment force shows that it is dangerous to overestimate common sense of NATO generals.

Correction to Draft Action Program on Economy

The following correction applies to the article entitled "Draft Action Program," published in FBIS-SOV-070-S of 11 April 1991, a National Affairs supplement entitled "Draft Action Program on Economy," on page one, column one. Page ten was omitted due to a printing error and should read as follows:

A special purpose program for attracting foreign capital is to be worked out, envisaging the creation of favorable conditions for the flow of foreign investments into the country during the current year, primarily into the branches of industry and fields of priority development. At the same time, it is planned to combine the processes of removing ownership from state control with attracting foreign investments, by providing them with the guarantees adopted in world practice on the basis of the USSR law on foreign investment.

The USSR Government will do its utmost to assist in the creation of various types of financial institutions with participation by foreign capital, in particular insurance companies, and investment and innovation banks.

Proposals for offering concessions to companies from foreign countries are to be drawn up in agreement with the republics for examination at the Federation Council in the second quarter of 1991, and the necessary legal and organizational issues are to be worked out, taking into consideration domestic and foreign experience.

The concept of creating free enterprise zones on USSR territory is to be submitted for examination at the Federation Council.

To ensure that a draft legislative act on the repatriation of profit and hard currency investment in the USSR and abroad is elaborated and submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet no later than 1 June of the current year.

To work out principles agreed with the republics on forming and using hard currency resources, the repayment of foreign debt, and the choice of just criteria for the distribution of this burden between enterprises, Union republics, and the center; to put corresponding proposals to the Union republic hard currency committee intending to make the process of attracting and repaying credits show up specific and identifiable tasks in this area.

To expand and deepen the organizational and legal bases of cooperation with major economic groupings, above all with countries of the European Community and the Asia Pacific region. To continue the line of cooperation with leading international trade and financial organizations, primarily with GATT, the IMF, IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development], EBRD, [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development], and others.

IX. Priorities in Structural Reorganization and Scientific and Technical Progress

The USSR government intends carrying out major structural re-organization of the economy as a strategic direction of its activity with the aim of:
Creating a developed industrial consumer sector of the economy as a necessary condition for the mobilization of social reserves of economic growth;
Overcoming the structural and technical imbalance of the national economy—the main reason for an economy wasteful of resources.

It is intended:

—To carry out large-scale redistribution of resources from outmoded production plants to new ones, ensuring an increase in the competitiveness of Soviet enterprises in the world market of high technologies, the multiple increase in labor productivity, a qualitatively new level of resource saving, ecological safety, and transition to an improved type of consumption;

—To work out and activate an extensive arsenal of direct and indirect methods to stimulate the business activity of economic units, with the aim of strengthening their influence on increasing the receptiveness of production to scientific and technical achievements;

—To study a program for the conversion of military industry in the second quarter of 1991, with a view to further cutting military expenditure while ensuring the sufficient and necessary defense capability of the USSR and increasing the contribution by the defense complex to the production of consumer goods and the technical reconstruction of the national economy and strengthening the country's export potential;

—To carry out a strong scientific and technical policy aimed in the first stage at preserving and strengthening the intellectual potential of society and, in the second stage, at a radical transformation of production;

—To use methods of target program planning as the main instrument of managing the top-priority areas of scientific and technical progress;

—To set about the realization of state priority areas of scientific and technical progress, proceeding from the premise that they serve not only as a basis of the development of science and technology, but also constitute a strategic line in carrying out structural changes in public production. To devote special attention to programs for the structural reorganization of basic industries as well as to conversion of the scientific and technical potential and production capacity of the defense complex.

On this basis, it is planned to speed up a structural transformation of group "A" industry in the direction of providing for demands of the industrial consumer complex and people's working and living conditions

—To develop a package of measures insuring the preservation of scientific potential as a basis for the country's future prosperity, along with support for, and training of, highly qualified scientists and specialists to raise their prestige in society and to make it possible to prevent a drain of scientific cadres from the country;
—To change the methods of financing all-Union and inter- republican target programs with a view to expanding the possibilities of attracting means from the budgets at all levels, extra-budgetary funds, bank credits, and resources of interested enterprises, organizations, and foreign investors;
—To complete the creation of an all-Union fundamental research fund in 1991. To set up a special fund for financing general industrial and inter-industrial

Supreme Soviet

Session Proceedings 12 Apr Reported

LD1204204791

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television Second Program Network in Russian at 1903 GMT on 12 April carries the "At the USSR Supreme Soviet Session" program of recorded excerpts of the proceedings of the USSR Supreme Soviet session in the Kremlin in Moscow on 12 April. The session is chaired by Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Lukyanov begins:

"Recently, many members of the mass media and individuals inside and outside the Supreme Soviet have begun to say that the Supreme Soviet is following a well-trodden and tranquil path, while life is travelling along quite another path. I think, comrades, that we should distinctly and clearly answer these claims.

"We are not located apart from things. Just look at how many times we have discussed all the issues connected with price reform. In literally 10-15 days, we returned four times to issues relating to prices. We heard information from the USSR State Committee on Prices. We heard information on compensation, and so on. That is to say, everything that could be done in this area was done. In addition, you will recall that in line with an inquiry by Deputy Pronin, materials in respect of the sales tax were immediately given to the president and the government. Two days later, the president issued a decree on this matter recommending that Union and autonomous governments expand the list of goods exempted from this tax.

"At our session, you will recall, very acute concern was expressed about the high prices in the canteens of enterprises, and at educational establishments and institutions. The government was asked to take speedy and energetic measures on this matter. Today, we delivered to you a decision by the government on this issue, on compensation to workers for the increased cost of catering in canteens and snack bars.

"Indeed, I will not mention the detail in which we have recently been considering the situation in agriculture. It was a fine thing that immediately after decisions adopted by the Supreme Soviet a presidential decree was issued on emergency measures to tackle the issue of the development of agriculture.

"I remind you of the matters that we have considered regarding the Aral Sea and Chernobyl, and a whole range of interethnic issues. There were also the matters relating to rallies, demonstrations, strikes and so on.

"So, we cannot say that the Supreme Soviet is working inactively and is standing aside. It is another matter that it works calmly and without hysterics. That indeed is perhaps our greatest accomplishment.

"For this reason, I make the following proposal, which stems from this. It seems to me that we will act correctly if, with equal energy and equal attention, we consider all the issues connected with the government's program, which was today given to all deputies, namely, the anti-crisis program.

"It stems from those proposals that have been expressed by people's deputies at recent sessions, at the sessions of late. We must say that it has absorbed everything that has been expressed here. The program has now been sent to the republics, to the councils of ministers and governments of the republics. In addition, it was in a general way considered at the last meeting of the Federation Council. You are obviously acquainted with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbchev's speech on this issue.

"This, therefore, comrades, is my proposal regarding this program which you have in your hands. It will surely be right for us today, right at the start of the session, to adopt a decision on the procedure for consideration of this anti-crisis program by the Supreme Soviet. We could instruct all the committees and commissions to consider this draft program within a few days. I think that the time for this cannot exceed a week. Then, the Commission for the Budget, Planning and Finance and the Commission for Labor and social policy, if need be, with the involvement of other commissions, and I think that it must be with the involvement of the corresponding commission of the Soviet of Nationalities, these three commissions then...

"[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] And the committee on economic reform.

"[Lukyanov] And, certainly the Committee on Economic Reform should generalize all the proposals of the commissions, to be able, say, on the 22nd here at the Supreme Soviet, to hear not only the government's report on this program but also the supplementary report of our committees and commissions and to launch its discussion. It should be discussed in all its aspects. If need be, amendments to the program should be made so that some time around the 25th or 26th of April we could make a final decision on the government's anti-crisis program.

"The main thing is to express our view and our attitude about this program, which contains the entire foundation of future work to stabilize the national economy this year and, indeed over, the short term.

"If you have no objections, all this could be formulated in a decision of the Supreme Soviet, and we could adopt it.

"[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] It would be of an instructional character.

"[Lukyanov] It would be of a purely instructional character, about the procedure for consideration of the anti-crisis program by the Supreme Soviet. So, what is your opinion, comrades?

"[Unidentified speakers] That is okay.

"[Lukyanov] Right, it is okay."

Various deputies make proposals with regard to the procedure for considering the anti-crisis program and also criticize the way that laws are being implemented. Deputy Semenov speaks of the critical situation in the country. He says that the USSR president should be asked to give the Supreme Soviet an accounting of the way he has been fulfilling his duties as president.

The announcer then says that the Supreme Soviet went on to consider the draft law on a USSR Control Chamber.

Kucherenko then presents this draft law; the legislators need to be able to monitor how state money is being spent. He says that international experience shows that legislative control over expenditure exists in almost all countries. The need exists for the creation in our country of an independent control body. The draft bill to be considered today, he says, provides for the creation of a USSR Chamber of Control that will be accountable to the Supreme Soviet. The control body will, among other things, monitor the USSR State Bank and the USSR Finance Ministry. The control chamber will monitor expenditure at all levels. The need for the control body is clear, since the country's foreign debt continues to rise. He makes it clear that the control body cannot monitor the work of enterprises not receiving all-Union funds or involved in special programs. He calls upon the deputies to support this bill.

Various deputies then raise points about the draft bill.

The announcer goes on to say that the first reading of the bill was passed.

At 1946 GMT Lukyanov says: "We have a second decision, comrades, concerning the formula on which we were seeking agreement this morning, on the procedure for the USSR Supreme Soviet to consider the draft USSR Cabinet of Ministers action program to get the economy out of crisis.

"The USSR Supreme Soviet resolves: that the USSR Cabinet of Ministers draft action program to get the economy out of crisis be handed over for consideration by the committees of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the standing commissions of its chambers; second, that the Supreme Soviet's Committee on Economic Reform, the Soviet of the Union's Commission on the Budget, Planning and Finance, the Soviet of the Union's Commission on Labor and Social Policy, and the Council of Nationalities' Commission on the Economic Relations of Republics and Autonomous Formations within one week generalize the proposals and remarks of Supreme Soviet committees and standing commissions of its chambers on the draft USSR Cabinet of Ministers action program to get the economy out of crisis and present appropriate conclusions to the Supreme Soviet; third, that it be deemed expedient to invite representatives of the supreme soviets of the republics, their relevant committees and commissions and their governments to the sessions of the Supreme Soviet to take part in the discusion of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers draft action program to get the economy out of crisis."

Lukyanov then takes a vote and the draft is approved.

Yakovlev presents draft laws on the work of the USSR Arbitration Court. He says these laws will help to ensure that the USSR Supreme Soviet's laws are implemented and that the country operates on a law-governed basis. As the country moves toward market economics the court will be called upon to resolve many economic conflicts in line with the country's laws. He says that economic disputes are to be resolved at the lowest possible level, that is at the oblast and republican level where possible. He says that many months' work has gone into the drafts now being presented for deputies' consideration.

The first readings of these two draft laws are passed. Deputies go on to adopt a decision on combating the dissemination of violence, cruelty and pornography.

At 2005 GMT the announcer says that the next joint sitting of the USSR Supreme Soviet will be on Monday 15 April, and the program ends.

Draft on Control Chamber Adopted

LD1204135191 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS legislative correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The USSR Supreme Soviet today adopted the first reading of a bill on the USSR Control Chamber—a new parliamentary body, which is meant to protect the state's property interests.

Submitting the bill to deputies, Viktor Kucherenko, chairman of the parliamentary Plan and Budgetary Commission, emphasised that the Control Chamber's powers were strictly limited by the all-Union budgetary

resources and property. Enterprises and organisations, which do not receive appropriations from the union budget and are not involved in the implementation of special state programmes, cannot be checked and inspected.

Under the bill, the USSR Control Chamber checks if all funds were donated to the Union budget and monitors the activity of the USSR Finance Ministry in the implementation of the bill. It also sees to it that the property in all-Union ownership is safe, evaluates the financial and economic expediency of state programmes and performs other functions. The chamber is vested with the right to appeal to the president, parliament or other state bodies with the demand that officials be held accountable for abuses committed by them.

Separate provisions of the bill drew critical remarks. Some deputies pointed out that it was illegitimate to invest the Control Commission with the right to give instructions to the administration of enterprises to compensate for the damage caused to the state and that only judicial bodies should have such rights.

The bill was sent for additional study, mindful of remarks made. Its second reading will be presented to parliament later.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Decree on Resources to Enterprises

CM1204220591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 91 Second Edition p 1

[Decree signed by USSR President M. Gorbachev in Moscow on 12 April: "USSR President's Decree on Emergency Measures To Ensure the Supply of Material Resources to Enterprises, Associations, and Organizations"]

[Text] The fall in output and imports and the continuing disruption of existing economic ties are forcing many enterprises to a standstill. In order to prevent chaos and mass unemployment, I resolve:

1. Republican and local bodies of power are to be asked to revoke, within a week, decisions banning the export by enterprises of output to destinations outside specific republics, krays, and oblasts, and also decisions by republican and local bodies of power and administration on the unauthorized utilization of output allocated to consumers in fulfillment of state orders. When this deadline expires, the aforementioned decisions will no longer have legal force.

2. To prevent the halting of enterprises because of a shortage of raw and other materials and components, and bearing in mind the proposals of republics, to authorize the USSR Ministry of Material Resources, on the basis of representations by management organs of the USSR and the republics or in agreement with them:

To specify the amount of supplies of goods to consumers envisaged in the plans for 1991 in the light of the actual state of resources and interrepublic agreements;

In the second-fourth quarters of 1991 to centrally allocate some of the material resources left to enterprises for free sale.

Here the contracts concluded by enterprises for 1991 and prevailing economic ties should be preserved to the utmost possible extent.

3. As an exception to Paragraph 2, Article 23 of the USSR Law on Enterprises in the USSR, orders for the supply of output during 1991 placed by the USSR Ministry of Material Resources are to be binding on all enterpries, associations, and organizations, irrespective of their departmental subordination and territorial location. The liability of enterprises, associations, and organizations for the nonfulfillment of contractual undertakings contained in the stipulated order placement ensues in accordance with this decree and with account taken of change in the volumes of delivery of production.

[Signed] USSR President M. Gorbachev
The Kremlin, Moscow, 12 April 1991

CPSU Central Committee Plenum Planned 24 Apr

LD1404135291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1341 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr (TASS)—A number of topical questions of the forthcoming work of the party were examined at a sitting of the secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee held here yesterday under the chairmanship of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

During the thorough discussion of the situation that has evolved in the economic and political spheres and of the need to adopt important decisions, the Central Committee Secretariat came out in favor of convening a plenum of the CPSU Central Committee on 24 April. Questions of the situation in the country and in the party will be examined at the plenum.

Ivashko Denies Danger of Split

LD1204133791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1229 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS World Service observer Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)—To all appearances, the CPSU leadership is evaluating quite realistically the current complex situation in the party and its place in society, but it does not regard the situation as dramatic. Such a conclusion can be drawn from the conversation I had with Vladimir Ivashko, deputy general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

"The second man" in the party admits that it is "going through hard times" and predicts that its membership will continue to fall, but he does not regard this as a tragedy. Last year alone 1.8 million people, or 11 percent, left the CPSU. Although, according to him, a certain "stratification" is taking place in the CPSU and there are "ultraconservative" and "extreme radical" elements, the Central Committee does not think that a real danger of a split in the party exists.

Judging by Vlamidir Ivashko's reaction, the CPSU leadership has a negative attitude to the initiative of Aleksandr Rutskoy, member of the Russian legislature and member of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party Central Committee, who, early in April, set up a new legislative group, "Communists for Democracy," which supports the policy of Boris Yeltsin, leader of the republican legislature. But as shown by the list of the group published in today's SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, it would be too hasty to speak about a serious split among the Communist deputies. Only 7 percent of the deputies making up the "Communists of Russia" group (and it is precisely this group which unites a considerable part of deputies who are CPSU members) have decided to go over to the "Communists for Democracy" faction.

The CPSU leadership has a skeptical attitude to Boris Yeltsin's proposal to hold "a roundtable" with representatives of various political parties, including, as he put it, "progressively thinking Communists." Vladimir Ivashko described this idea as "borrowed from Eastern Europe" and "one that has not yielded any special positive results."

Vladimir Ivashko expressed his full support for Mikhail Gorbachev as the leader of the CPSU and USSR president. He categorically denied fabrications to the effect that "a coordinated campaign for discrediting" the CPSU Central Committee general secretary was allegedly conducted within the CPSU Central Committee and the party.

The other day Communists of the Ukraine and Leningrad—the country's second most important city—came out with a sharp criticism of the Union leadership's socioeconomic policy and demanded that a CPSU Central Committee plenum be convened and that Mikhail Gorbachev give an account at it. Mikhail Gorbachev "is sometimes criticized" within the Central Committee itself, his deputy said.

The party's political course in the current conditions, apparently, will be specified at the CPSU Central Committee plenum scheduled for late April-early May. Its agenda, according to Vladimir Ivashko, will include the issues of "the current moment" and "of the Communists' work in local soviets."

'Adviser' Expects Gorbachev Ouster

LD1204231791 Berlin ADN in German 2208 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Osnabrueck (ADN)—The long-standing adviser to the Moscow leadership, Vyacheslav Dashichev, expects that as early as the end of this year the Soviet president will no longer be called Mikhail Gorbachev. In an interview with the NEUE OSNABRUECKER ZEITUNG (Saturday edition) Dashichev has advised the West to expect "great changes" in the USSR soon. Faced with the small amount of support even from conservatives it was possible that Gorbachev would be deselected in a few weeks' time at the next plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee, as happened to Nikita Khrushchev in 1964. The Kremlin leader has become a mere transitional figure, the "Modrow of the Soviet Union". However, while it was possible for yet another president to emerge temporarily from the party apparatus, the radical reformers around the Russian legislature's president Boris Yeltsin would shortly finally gain the upper hand. Should mass protests and strikes continue to spread then it would be "quite possible", in the view of the foreign affairs and economics expert, for Yeltsin to take over direct leadership this year. "Gorbachev is, and has always been, Communist and for that reason prepared only to take reforms to certain limits. And he reached those limits in 1989", Dashichev said. Furthermore the president is too weak, tired and exhausted, beyond ideological barriers, to change course. Gorbachev undoubtedly has great merit. However, he has now fulfilled his historic role and the time has come to hand over the reign to a "fresh statesman" like Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin is single-minded, uncompromising and strong-willed. But, above all, and unlike Gorbachev, he is striving not only for a reform of the authoritarian structures but for a new system, which is a precondition for the amelioration of the economy.

Dashichev does not see any danger of destabilization through such a change in leadership, as feared by the West. The population trusted Yeltsin and would show the necessary patience "since the future is there". Likewise, Dashichev rules out the possibility of an attempt by the conservatives to prevent, by military force, a power takeover by the radical reformers. Sending shock troops to the Baltics to suppress the independence demands or to put down a mass movement are a different matter. The Army would not shoot at the civilian population, since the recognition "that it cannot continue like this" has gained ground even among its ranks.

Ministerial Appointment Decrees Published

PM1204141591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 91 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] The following have been appointed by decrees issued by USSR President M. Gorbachev:

Oleg Nikolayevich Soskovets as USSR minister of metallurgy;

and Genrikh Borisovich Stroganov as chairman of the USSR State Committee for Machine Building.

Liberal Democrats Register as All-Union Party

LD1204182291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1432 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)—The second all-Union party—the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)—was registered at the USSR Ministry of Justice today. It thereby received the right of a legal person in accordance with the new law on public associations in the USSR. The first political party in the Soviet Union to receive the status of all-Union party and the rights of a legal person was the Communist Party, which was registered here on 11 April.

"Things have begun to move," said USSR Justice Minister Sergey Lushchikov in a conversation with the TASS correspondent. "With the registration of the LDP it can be said with complete justification that a real step forward has been taken along the path of creating a multiparty system in the country." In the words of the minister, certain delays in the registration of parties and movement are due, first of all, to the legal illiteracy of their leaders, but the Ministry's staff are doing their utmost to lend assistance in drawing up the documents necessary for registration.

The Liberal-Democratic Party of the Slovak Union has never been involved in any sociopolitical shocks in the USSR, Vladimir Zhirnovskiy, its leader, said in conversation with the TASS correspondent. It has always striven for stability in the country, wished the Soviet people happiness, calm, and prosperity. The main aim of the party, which numbers around 17,000 members at present, he stressed, is to create a law-governed state with a liberal understanding of human rights and with a liberal economy.

When the second congress of our party opens tomorrow, we will make an attempt to join actively in the political struggle, he continued. In this connection, Vladimir Zhirnovskiy reported that a candidate for president of Russia will be put forward at the congress, and he apparently will be that candidate. The LDP will begin thereby the struggle for the post of president of Russia.

Russian Presidency Candidate Named

LD1304154191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1443 GMT 13 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr (TASS)—Vladimir Zhirnovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was elected candidate for the post of president of Russia in future elections by 40 votes to 4 at the Party's second congress.

Opening the congress, Vladimir Zhirnovskiy told the delegates about the procedure yesterday to register the LDP at the USSR Ministry of Justice as an officially legalized party of the Soviet Union. Then he put forward the Party's aims and tasks.

In Vladimir Zhirnovskiy's words, 44 delegates from eight republics of the country are taking part in the work of the congress.

Party Congress Concludes

LD1404144991 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The second congress of the Soviet Liberal Democratic Party ended work here today after adopting a new party programme and approving amendments to the party rules.

Participants discussed the situation in different regions of the country and expressed concern over the situation of the Russian- speaking population in a number of regions, including the Baltics.

The congress nominated the party's leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy its candidate for Russian president.

The Liberal Democratic Party was the second political organisation to be registered by the Soviet Justice Ministry after the Soviet Communist Party. The registration enables the party to begin its election campaign on the legal ground.

Tarazevich Views Draft Union Treaty Progress

LD1304123391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr (TASS)—In the draft Union treaty prepared by representatives of the republics, it has been possible to achieve considerable progress in resolving the central problem—the demarcation of powers between the center and the republics. This has been reported in an interview to the TASS correspondent by Georgiy Tarazevich, chairman of the Nationalities Policy and Interethnic Relations Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who took part in the work on the document.

According to him, a proportion of the powers that previously belonged exclusively to the Union has not been placed in the sphere of the joint competence of the center and the republics. Thus in the new variant, Georgiy Tarazevich said, "organizations of defense and management in the USSR Armed Forces, and border,

internal, and other troops, have been allocated to the Union's prerogative; the declaration of war and the conclusion of peace, and the shaping of the USSR's military policy, have been placed in the joint competence of the Union and the republics."

The representatives of the republics also came to a rational decision in connection with drawing up the Union budget, Georgiy Tarazevich reported. Previously, a number of republics—including Russia as well—were insisting on a one-channel system of budget revenues: all taxes from enterprises and citizens go to the republics, while afterwards some proportion is transferred to the Union. However, in the end, the representatives of the republics agreed to the setting of Union taxes. The size of these taxes will be determined in consultation with the republics.

The chairman of the Union legislative commission expressed a restrained optimism in connection with the prospects for signing the Union treaty. "So far it is too early to say that we are close to completing it," he noted. "However, the results of the 17 March referendum will undoubtedly reduce the influence of the separatist forces, and will speed up the process of concluding the treaty."

Georgiy Tarazevich stressed that the most complicated process—the examination of the draft by the legislatures of the Union republics, where it was sent after the discussion at the meeting of the USSR Council of the Federation on Tuesday—lies ahead. "The completion of the process depends on how fundamental the differences turn out to be, and on how great the range of their differences will be," the commission's chairman said. "It can be expected that it will not be great. The representatives of the republics taking part in the treaty process have consulted with their own legislature."

Banned TV Journalists Hoping To Be Reemployed

PM1204135991 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 13 (March 91) signed to press 26 Mar 91 p 44

[Unnattributed report: "TSN Trio"]

[Text] Three anchors of TSN's ["Television News Service"] evening news program—33-year-old Tatyana Mitkova, 37-year-old Dmitriy Kiselev, and 37-year-old Yuriy Rostov—have been taken off the TV airwaves. Only state television, which fulfills the social imperative of the powers-that-be and does not care about trifles like program quality or the opinion of the viewers, can allow itself such a policy of forcing out strong and popular journalists.

We were unable to get hold of a photograph of Yuriy Rostov [photos of the other two journalists named above are incorporated in this feature]: At the television cadres department we were told that his personal file had already been archived...

All three were brought into the news team two years ago by Eduard Sagalayev, now head of the country's Union of Journalists. Will he be able to defend his former colleagues who did not wish to duplicate the "Vremya" program in miniature?

The TSN team made the exposition of objective news their guiding principle. Mitkova, Kiselev, and Rostov many a time had to withstand pressure from the leadership. True, they rarely made compromises. When the first reports arrived from Vilnius 13 January, Tatyana Mitkova decided to appear on TSN, and refused to read the text about the Committee of National Salvation—a newscaster did this for her. Yuriy Rostov was the first to say on television, shortly before the referendum, that the question of how people feel about the Union was posed just as imprecisely as the questions on the fate of the Baltic republics submitted in the public opinion polls in the Baltic region, which the USSR President described as unlawful because of their inherent ambiguity.

All three were banned from broadcasting as of 15 March. Kravchenko did not make public the reasons for this decision, although he did advance a strange charge of "lack of professionalism"...

Now Yuriy Rostov has issued a statement about his acceptance for work in the All-Russian Television and Radio Company. Tatanya Mitkova and Dmitriy Kiselev still hope to work on the news on the first television channel.

"I see no serious reasons why not to do this, apart from the personality of Leonid Kravchenko," Kiselev says. "I hope that the present policy in our department is short-lived. After all, we are talking about the fate of nationwide television. If you take the commonsense approach, the legislature should intervene—the whole of society should intervene."

Moscow Gorkom Discusses May Day Parade Venue

LD1204160891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The Russian Information Agency has issued a report on a meeting held by the of the Moscow City Party Committee [Gorkom] Bureau where the question of staging the May Day rally was discussed.

The Communist Party and trade unions city committees intend to act as its organizers, and it is intended to stage the rally itself under the motto "In defense of the working man".

As has become known to the agency, Prokofyev, first secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee, has proposed that the rally be held on Red Square. However, a few rayon committees spoke in favor of Manezhnaya Square.

If some are banned from organizing a rally on Red Square, then others should also refrain from doing this, Kislova, secretary of the Sverdlovsk CPSU Rayon Committee, noted in particular.

A final decision was not made but, for that matter, I think that there is still time.

TASS Reviews Central Press for 13 Apr

LD1304064191 Moscow TASS in English 0635 GMT 13 Apr 91

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The text of President Mikhail Gorbachev's decree "On Extraordinary Measures to Provide Enterprises, Amalgamations and Organisations with Material Resources" is published in the press today.

PRAVDA carries Gorbachev's message of greetings to participants in an international ecological seminar that opened at Stanford University in the United States.

Reporting proceedings of the Soviet parliament session on Friday, the press emphasises that deputies decided to begin to consider the anti-crisis programme of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers in parliamentary committees and commissions next week and to bring it up for discussion at a plenary meeting of the parliamentary chambers on April 22.

The government's new programme was first submitted by Gorbachev at the Federation Council meeting last Tuesday. It envisages urgent strict measures to reduce the budget deficit, normalise money circulation and avert further slump in production.

The country's parliament on Friday adopted the first reading of a bill on a USSR Control Chamber—a new parliamentary fiscal control agency which will check the receipt of revenue to the union budget, monitor the efficienty of the utilisation of state resources and the state of preservation of all-Union property.

The parliament also adopted the first reading of bills on a Supreme Arbitration Court of the USSR and on a procedure to resolve economic disputes by the Supreme Arbitration Court.

It will be within the competence of the Supreme Arbitration Court to resolve economic disputes between enterprises of all-Union importance. The parliament passed a resolution on measures to put a stop to the propaganda of pornography, the cult of violence and cruelty.

The press reports that miners' strikes continue in the main coal-producing regions of the country. The situation has approached a critical mark, PRAVDA points out.

The newspaper writes that five coke-oven batteries and 21 blast furnaces have been shut down in the country as of today. A shortfall in production has amounted to hundreds of tonnes of steel, rolled metal and cast iron.

Over the first quarter of the current year, the national income produced decreased by ten per cent. PRAVDA describes the continuation of strikes as a "stab in the people's back".

Nikolay Katkov, deputy chairman of the Central Control Commission of the Russian Federation Communist Party, describes in PRAVDA the development of the process of rehabilitating victims of the mass repressions of the 1930-50s.

The press reports another aggravation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. Criminal elements gradually move from one-off unlawful acts to large-scale actions. Even the presence of a military contingent of the USSR Interior Ministry troops there is not always an obstacle to militants.

Newspapers state that the situation in South Ossetia has been strained to the utmost following a number of decisions by the Georgian leadership, directed towards confrontation with the central authorities. A blockade of railways, launched by the Georgian side, is fraught with still more dangerous complications of the situation in the entire region.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA devotes a whole page to an interview with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev who is one of the most vivid representatives of politicians of a new mould who consistently effects reforms and a programme of transition to market relations in the republic.

Among international topics, newspapers highlight President Gorbachev's forthcoming official visit to Japan. PRAVDA acquaints readers with the country the Soviet president will visit.

What do people in Japan think about the first-ever visit there by the president of the USSR? How do the United States and western Europe view the event? Answers to these questions are provided by dispatches by PRAVDA's correspondents Igor Latyshev in Japan, Vitaliy Gan in the United States and Vladimir Peresada in Belgium.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA describes the state of and prospects for Soviet-Japanese economic cooperation, preparations in Tokyo, the capital of Japan, to meet the Soviet president, and Japanese folk traditions.

A separate story in the newspaper deals with the subject of the Kuril Islands which are known to be the main problem complicating Soviet-Japanese relations.

The newspaper calls for consistently and constructively looking for ways to resolve the problem, and not for "counting grievances".

A similar idea was expressed in an interview with TRUD newspaper by Toshikuni Yahiro, president of the Japanese Association for Trade with the USSR and Eastern Europe (SOTOBO), who emphasised that a way out of difficulties is in patience and faith.

Developments in Iraq figure importantly among international topics. Newspapers state that the position of Kurdish refugees, the number of whom in areas of Iran and Turkey bordering on Iraq continues to increase rapidly, is becoming disastrous. The number of cases of death of starvation and diseases is growing.

The press reports in detail the international community's and individual countries' efforts to provide humanitarian aid for the Kurds, noting, however, that the problem cannot be resolved by aid alone. It is essential to bring about an immediate end to the persecution of civilians by the Iraqi regime and establish stability in the country, newspapers points out.

TASS Reviews PRAVDA for 15 Apr

LD1504063991 Moscow TASS in English 0633 GMT 15 Apr 91

["Soviet PRAVDA Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev left Moscow for Tokyo on Sunday, today's PRAVDA reports. The newspaper runs several stories in the run up to Gorbachev's visit to Japan.

PRAVDA carries a letter by the wife of a Karaganda miner about the miners' strike.

It publishes a comment by publicist Tatyana Samolis about Soviet economic woes.

It writes about criminals ravaging South Ossetia, who were paroled by the Georgian government last year. The former criminals are led by Georgian police officers, it says.

PRAVDA comments on the debate on efforts to help Chernobyl nuclear disaster victims in the Soviet parliament last week.

PRAVDA carries several stories about life in foreign countries. One of them tells about Soviet citizens working at Polish farms.

In an editorial comment, the newspaper writes about Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq.

PRAVDA carries a report about the city of Strasbourg, the headquarters of the European Community.

It publishes comments by critic Al. Mikhailov about the influence of politics on Soviet literature.

The newspaper also carries a report from a command centre of the Soviet missile attack early warning system and an article by V. Desyaterik "Lenin and Russia".

PRAVDA publishes president Mikhail Gorbachev's decree on "Urgent Measures to Develop Soviet Libraries" and a Soviet cabinet resolution "on Tariff Agreements for 1992-1995".

Economic

Ukrainian Miners 'Unyielding' on Demands

LD1304123991 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Report by correspondent Volodymyr Slipko]

[Excerpts] I have found myself in a fairly difficult situation today. The thing is that the republican Committee for Coal Industry, which is a government institution, and local strike committees, with which I maintained phone contact all day, gave different information on the number of pits in Ukraine on strike today. This figure, for instance, was given in the committee: 44 enterprises of the industry. A total of 24 out of that number are in Donetsk oblast; seven in Lugansk oblast. They are all registered in Pervomaysk. Then, three are in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast and 10 in Lvov and Volhynia Oblasts. According to the information of the strike committees, the number of miners' collectives that did not work today was 62 and included virtually all miners' towns and villages of Donbass and western region of the republic. [passage omitted]

It seems, however, that events around Ukrainian People's Deputy Stepan Khmara can make the situation amid miners even more serious. According to the information I received, he was detained at Donetsk airport, where he arrived for a meeting with local miners, today at 1140 Kiev time. (Mykhaylo Krylov), representative of the Donetsk city strike committee, informed me of that literally 30 minutes later, after this incident. He said that their committee and other strike committees were then trying to ascertain who specifically was involved in detaining Stepan Khmara. Then, (Mykhaylo Krylov) said the following:

[Begin (Krylov) recording] Many miners' collectives on strike gathered on the central square of Donetsk. A meeting is being held. It is spontaneous. The majority demands to continue the strike to its triumphal conclusion. [end recording]

It appears that the miners of Donbass and Chervonograd are equally unyielding in their demands. The only difference is that the latter already feel real pressure from the administration. [passage omitted]

103 Mining Enterprises Stop Work in Kuzbass

LD1204161691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The miners continue their strike. A total of 103 enterprises have stopped work in Kuzbass. The Kemerovo metallurgical combine joined the strike yesterday.

Pyotr Popov, member of the Kemerovo workers committee, informed the Russian Information Agency correspondent that the meeting of the representatives of the strike committees will take place in Moscow at the beginning of the next week. Representatives from the different regions of the country will take part in it. It is possible that the question of an all-Union strike will be discussed.

Vorkuta, Donbass, Kuzbass Miners Continue Strike

LD1204215391 Moscow TASS in English 2141 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The situation continues to be tense in the coal-mining regions of the USSR. A partial or complete termination of the delivery of special brands of coal, primarily coking coal, is aggravating the situation not only at metallurgical complexes, but also in some other key industries.

Nevertheless, it was decided on Friday to continue the strike at the mines of Vorkuta, Donbass and Kuzbass. The reason for the continuation of the strike is the failure to meet the main demands of the miners—the dissolution of the Soviet Parliament and the immediate adoption of a general agreement about tariffs on coal and coal production operations, Irina Minaeva, secretary of the Vorkuta strike committee, told TASS. Twelve out of 13 Vorkuta mines are not delivering coal.

Miners from South Urals mines owe 100,000 tonnes of coal to their customers. Commenting on the situation at the request of TASS, Vladimir Somov, a drifter from the Kapitalnaya mine who took part in the negotiations with the president and the prime minister, said that South Urals miners are not satisfied with their results, because in Moscow they were not given an answer to a package of problem dealing with the ecological situation in the region and the living standards of its residents.

The situation in Kuzbass is equally complicated. As a result of a shortage of financial resources, which is a direct consequence of the failure by the striking mines and opencast collieries to fulfill their commitments to customers, in a week the Kemerovo region will be unable to pay wages to teachers, medics and other categories of working people, a spokesman for the Kemerovo regional council told TASS.

The situation in Donbass changed little during the past 24 hours. Twenty-six out of 122 mines are not working. A representative of one of the working mines told TASS that although labour collectives support the demands of striking miners, including political ones, they still believe that all problems should be settled by means of talks. He believes that strikes only strangle the republic.

Donetsk Workers Ignore Miners' Call To Strike

PM1504112791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 91 First Edition p 2

[PRAVDA correspondent V. Glotov report: "No Backing for 'Agitators'"]

[Text] Donetsk, 12 Apr—The situation in the Donbass is still tense. Strike committees have held several rallies recently. In addition to speeches opposing the price hike, attacks on the CPSU, and demands for the country's president to resign and the USSR Supreme Soviet to be dissolved, a new proposal has been heard by them: The miners have urged workers in other sectors to back their strike and hold a citywide strike.

Teams formed at several striking mines are now visiting plants and factories in Donetsk calling labor collectives to take part in the general strike which the strikers want to hold 15 April. According to preliminary data, none of these enterprises has as yet expressed readiness to back the planned action.

Some 44 mining enterprises, 24 and seven of which in Donetsk and Lugansk Oblasts respectively, were partially or entirely nonoperational 12 April in the Ukraine.

IZVESTIYA on Kuzbass Strike Situation

PM1204184191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

[Viktor Kostyukovskiy report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Miners Thank Muscovites"]

[Text] Prokopyevsk—The Prokopyevsk Strike Committee has sent a letter to the inhabitants of Moscow.

The letter says that a recent Vremya broadcast on Central Television spoke of Prokopyevsk miners refusing "Moscow handouts." Muscovites might have construed this as referring to the food aid and money which they had collected and sent to the Kuzbass out of the kindness of their heart. However, the matter is quite different. "Prokopyevsk miners have rejected the decisions made by Prime Minister Pavlov and Minister Shchadov... We regard this as just another handout and an attempt to set the miners and workers in other sectors against one another... And we are deeply grateful to the inhabitants of the city of Moscow who have supported us in our time of difficulty, sharing their last crust of bread with us."

However, the "time of difficulty" continues. The miners' strike has cut off the biggest sources of state budget revenue. There is virtually nothing to pay doctors and teachers with. Nevertheless the expanded sitting of the strike committee unanimously rejected a gorispolkom [city soviet executive committee] request to expand the sale of liquor at commercial prices—order in the city is more precious. Hopes for the moment are being pinned on help from the oblast budget...

And what about the other Kuzbass cities? Novokuznetsk: The conference of the West Siberia Metallurgical Combine labor collective has decided to transfer the enterprise to the jurisdiction of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], to ban the activity of all political organizations at the combine, and to remove the CPSU party committee. Kiselevsk: Another two open-cut mines, a freight transport administration, and a motor vehicle depot have joined the political strike.

More than half the basin's coal-mining enterprises remain on strike.

Donetsk Mine Director Hands in Resignation

PM1204164591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

[Nikolay Lisovenko report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Mine Director Resigns"]

[Text] Donetsk—Forty-four coal enterprises in the Ukraine, including 24 in Donetsk Oblast, seven in Lugansk Oblast, and 10 in Lvov Oblast, are on strike. In the last 24 hours their lost output of fuel amounts to around 115,000 tonnes, basically scarce coking grades, moreover.

A month has elapsed since the "Selidovugol" production association's Korotchenko Mine went on strike. Its economic position is catastrophic. The enterprise has gone bankrupt and will have to be closed down.

Grigoriy Mirumyan worked as director of the "Rossiya" Mine, the "Selidovugol" production association's biggest mine, for 10 years, and the collective he headed always figured among the best. Now the "Rossiya" is on strike. For a long time the director exhorted members of the strike committee to seek satisfaction of their just demands without halting production; however, his advice was not heeded, and G. Mirumyan subsequently handed in his resignation.

In the opinion of specialists, it is more difficult to train a mine director than to train a regimental commander in the army. Meanwhile some leaders of striking mines are contemplating following Mirumyan's example.

Miners' Gains From Government Questioned

PM1504110591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 91 p 1

[Vasiliy Selyunin article: "Playing Giveaway. Economist Vasiliy Selyunin Comments on Talks Between Miners and Government"]

[Text] First, a fact from my own biography of which I will be proud for the rest of my life: As soon as the miners got hold of the documents adopted as a result of the talks with the government, a miners' representative searched me out and asked me to give an assessment of the agreements. I was greatly honored.

First of all about the monetary gains wrested by the miners. At first glance what the miners obtained was utterly excessive: Every quarter the wages fund will increase by one-fourth of the current level, and in a year wages will double. The like of it has never been seen. Furthermore, as compensation for the increase in prices employees in the main professions will start getting paid not 60 rubles [R] a month, as in other sectors, but from R80 to R105. Pension and tax privileges are envisaged. Let me say up front that there is not the slightest doubt that the government will fulfill all these promises.

What these payments will cost is another matter. At the beginning of this year I predicted in a radio interview that the Union budget would collapse no later than March-April. You did not have to be a prophet to see that. According to our calculations, the volumes of industrial production and national income will fall a minimum of 15 percent this year; moreover, the rate of decline will start to accelerate from month to month. Given such a scenario, financing the huge expenditures scheduled by the budget is unthinkable: Expenditures exceeding real income not by just a few percent but many times over. Meanwhile Pavlov, at that time minister of finance, contrived to dovetail an acceptable deficit into the budget. How? Very easily: Let us suppose, he says, that just a small increase in production occurs instead of a decrease, then there will be sufficient income.

The premier did not manage to outwit the economy, as opposed to our legislators. Pavlov's budget collapsed back in February, and in total in the first quarter the treasury received a little over one-third of scheduled income. All right, we are not the first to suffer a financial catastrophe and we will not be the last. The solution is also well known: If there is no money, curb expenditure. However, there is one thing I have never heard mentioned: Stopping grade payments to military personnel and handouts of wages at defense plants or pulling scientific institutes' snouts out of the budget trough. The premier took a different course: He prints false money and with one hand distributes it virtually willy-nilly, while he takes it back with the other hand by increasing in prices, exchanging banknotes, devaluing savings, and other bizarre methods. We have entered a period of hyperinflation without any hope of getting out of trouble because so far the salvational market reforms and privatization of property have not happened and are not happening.

Unlike his predecessor, the blubbering Bolshevik, our life-loving premier lacks moral constraints, and I can imagine what pains it took him to keep a straight face at the talks with the miners. He if anyone should realize that in just a year the promised money handouts to the miners will not be doubled but probably quadrupled or quintupled. But you do not moan if more is done than was promised.

By a special decision the government has permitted enterprises to sell up to 7 percent of fuel coal and up to 5 percent of coking coal from the total volume of actual

output at contract prices either abroad or on the domestic market. We are talking about the sale of over 40 million tonnes—the earnings from foreign sales alone will amount to over $2 billion. A colossal sum. For comparison let me point out that last year the country received $1.6 billion from the sale of 234 tonnes of gold (true, they sold the gold off cheap, as if it were stolen).

It emerged from the discussion with the miners that they understood that the foreign currency earnings for the coal would belong to them—otherwise what sort of concession is it? But by presidential decree 40 percent of the foreign currency is immediately removed into the fund for servicing foreign debts. From the remainder 90 percent is paid into the Union-republic currency fund. In this way export enterprises are left with a share of 6 percent of the earnings, and this currency must still be bought with rubles.

V. Pavlov's instruction does not say that there will be no such robbery in this instance, and it is hard to believe that the maw of an impoverished treasury will let a tasty morsel pass. It has not been stipulated whether enterprises will even be able to dispose of their miserly share autonomously, but from experience we know that the sector's bureaucrats are past masters at sharing out other people's things to their own advantage. Finally, note that selling a small amount of coal at contract prices is permitted both on the domestic and the foreign market. The wording is vague: The miners, of course, will want to deliver the whole of their fixed share of output abroad, but they will be instructed otherwise. Don't give anything away in meetings with our premier—he will take you to the cleaners without batting an eyelid for being a kind soul. Everything here has to be stipulated down to the last letter and comma.

And now yet another document additionally provides for allocating to miners a very considerable quantity of materials for the construction of housing and social amenities. But what does allocate mean? To issue funds, that is a voucher conferring the right to buy goods, and to tie these funds to specific suppliers. The Union Gosplan [State Planning Committee] and State Committee for Material and Technical Supply will undoubtedly carry out such actions. But thereafter—whatever will be will be. The funds are only paper, nowadays compulsory deliveries are met only as an exception. It is curious that the cabinet has laid responsibility for smooth delivery on the entirely powerless Gosplan, State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, ministries, and for some reason union republic governments, although promised output (rolled metal, pipes, metal, lumber, cement) is being exclusively produced by enterprises subordinate to the Union, even enterprises not formally under republics' control. When the time comes it will be easy to heap the blame on Silayev, Fokin, and Kebich—they are the ones who upset the whole applecart. I will be very surprised if even half of the prescribed deliveries are met—because enterprises' capacity is already bogged down with orders, but the government has forgotten to indicate who will pay for the construction materials the miners will receive.

I discovered the only real gain for miners in the whole package of agreements: Now the enterprises in the Far North and equivalent areas have obtained the right to pay for a return vacation journey for two members of a miner's family once every three years. Not bad, of course. However, take note: Enterprises are the ones who will pay; the government has merely given permission. Consequently the Cabinet of Ministers intends to continue monitoring producers' expenditures down to the last cent.

As we can see, the miners' economic demands have for the most part been formally met, but so cunningly that the miners will find it difficult to prove V. Pavlov's cabinet guilty of breaking the agreements. Nothing else can be obtained from this government, if only because it is not in control of the situation in the country. Power is shifting to the republics, where concord must be found too. But this is really a political question.

Kuzbass Miners Call All-Union Strike for 17 Apr

LD1304181591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1330 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Kuzbass miners are calling an all-Union strike on 17 April. As we have learned, this decision has received support from the Vorkuta city strike committee. Miners in both regions continue to use strikes to attain their political demands—the resignation of the president of the country and the Union government and the dissolution of the USSR Supreme Soviet—since in their view, if these demands are not met, it will not be possible to resolve economic problems.

Railway Workers Issue Threat to Vorkuta Miners

LD1304180791 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Igor Fesunenko report; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Miners from 12 out of the 13 Vorkuta collieries continue to link the strike with political demands. The main one among these demands is the dissolution of the USSR Parliament and the establishment of a coalition government of popular trust.

At present a delegation of the Cherepovets metallurgical combine which has rushed to Vorkuta is working. In the meantime the employees of the northern railways have practically given the miners an ultimatum—either you resume supplies of coal in full measure or we, the railway workers, will cut all types of deliveries to Vorkuta, including passenger transportation, within the next few days.

On Friday evening town leaders, representatives of the strike coordination council, and representatives of various socio-political organizations spoke live on local television. This produced the most diametrically opposite and contrary opinions, from the cessation of the strike, to its continuation and, as the saying goes, to the bitter end. Today these proposals are being discussed at collieries and other enterprises, but so far there are no changes in the situation which has formed.

The damage from the continuing strike is rapidly growing. The losses of the Vorkutaugol Association have topped 700,000 tonnes. Well, what do these losses signify for our country's economy? It is demonstrated by the cables received literally several minutes ago. They have been handed to us from the Russian Federation Council of Ministers. There is a whole pack of telegrams from the industrial enterprises of this republic. I will name the enterprises and briefly read out the essence of the message—they are all identical. In fact they are a cry for help.

Chelyabinsk oblast; Chelyabinsk metallurgical combine: Out of five blast furnaces, four have stopped. The output of rolled production has practically ceased. The situation at the Lebedinskiy ore-dressing combine, Gubkin town, Belgorod oblast, is becoming unpredictable. At the Bogoslovskiy aluminum plant there remains a three-day reserve of bauxite.

From the Kitimskiy mechanical engineering plant, Novosibirsk oblast: The consequences of the strikes of the Kuznetsk basin collieries have also put our enterprise on the verge of cessation. Magnitogorsk metallurgical combine: It is now a question of hours. A complete stoppage of continuous hot production with the consequences which this entails. We understand the miners' difficulties; we have no fewer. But when attempting to build a democratic society, one must not bring the economy to its knees. The telegram is signed by Shunin, chairman of the combine's (?technical inspection service).

One more telegram to comrade Yeltsin! Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, the collective of the Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Combine addresses you with a heavy heart. The miners' strike has led to the stoppage of the biggest metallurgical enterprise for the production of high-grade steels in the world. The cessation of the coke ovens is paralyzing the whole metallurgical process stage, and is leading to inestimable losses and expenditure on its restoration over many years.

So, these and many other telegrams contain requests, appeals, and cries for help from the workers—stop the miners' strike! Give us coal! Do not allow the disruption of coke oven batteries!

RSFSR's Silayev Talks Directly With Miners

LD1304210291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1938 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] A meeting was held at the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Council of Ministers on 12 and 13 April between Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and miners from the Raspadskaya mine in the Kuzbass, and the 60th anniversary of the Lenin Komsomol mine in Rostov Oblast. The possibility of introducing an economic system of mutual relations between the Russian council of Ministers and leasehold mining enterprises was discussed at the meeting. Agreement was reached on all the questions under discussion, and this has been recorded in corresponding protocols.

Cast Iron Output Drops; Kuzbass Coal Threatened

LD1404120991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The situation continues to remain sufficiently complex in the Siberian metallurgical combines. According to TASS reports, the Kuznetsk metallurgical combine collectives' output of cast iron has dropped by 10,000 tonnes in April. The reasons for this are the interruption in the supply of coke and the blast furnaces standing idle. As the TASS representative thinks, the metallurgical workers can hardly count on changing the situation for the better in the near future and getting the blast furnace going. The fulfillment of orders for the coal industry of the Kuzbass is threatened as a result of this.

Strike Committee Chairman Denies Ultimatum

LD1404122891 Hamburg DPA in German 1135 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Moscow/Vorkuta (DPA)—The continuing USSR miner's strikes are having a greater effect on the country's industrial production daily. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, negotiations have started in Vorkuta with representatives of the Cherepovets steel works. This, the largest and most modern steel works in the USSR west of the Urals, is supplied with coke from Vorkuta and is apparently threatened with grinding to a halt. As Viktor Kolesnikov, chairman of the Vorkuta strike committee, told DPA by telephone today, the talks are not dealing with ending the strike but with whether and what amount of coal should be assigned to Cherepovets. Kolesnikov denied reports in the Soviet media that the railway workers of Vorkuta had given the miners an ultimatum that they would stop transportation. The relevant document originated from the railway management. The railway workers, on the other hand, supported the miners' strike. [passage omitted]

Commission Examines Worker-Employer Agreements

PM1404190591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 91 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "At the USSR Cabinet of Ministers: On 1992-1995 Tariff Agreements"]

[Text] In connection with the economy's transition to market relations and the emergence of new forms of ownership, a clear demarcation of rights and responsibilities is required between the owners of the means of production and labor collectives. This is particularly necessary given the introduction of new prices and the implementation of steps to provide working people with social security and the reform of labor remuneration.

The USSR Cabinet of Ministers has issued an order compelling sectoral ministries, associations, state concerns, and associations to set up commissions in conjunction with trade unions, and conclude by 1 July 1991 tariff agreements for the period 1992-1995 for basic sectors. The agreements must make provision for the parties' reciprocal commitments to ensure the normal functioning of the national economy and provide social guarantees for working people, with consideration for the nature and conditions of production.

It is intended that central economic organs will represent the state's interests within the commissions; leaders of concerns, joint-stock companies, associations, USSR ministries and departments will represent the interests of the owners of the means of production; and trade unions or other professional associations will represent working people's interests.

A central commission chaired by V.I. Shcherbakov, USSR deputy prime minister, has been formed to promptly examine the whole series of questions linked with the conclusion of tariff agreements. The relevant USSR deputy prime ministers are to take charge of this work in groups of industries. The USSR Cabinet of Ministers Presidium will consider the final proposals for tariff agreements.

The USSR Government is scheduled to discuss these questions on 16 April with the General Confederation of USSR Trade Unions Council and sectoral professional associations, along with the USSR Scientific and Industrial Union, other public unions, and associations of entrepreneurs.

Labor Official Defends Right To Strike

LD1404000191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1845 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Interview with Vladimir Pavlovich Shcherbakov, chairman of the USSR General Confederation of Trade Unions, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Topical Interview" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Vladimir Pavlovich, according to experts, this year should go down in the history of the workers' movement as a year of fierce struggle by the workers for their rights. Will the General Confederation of Trade Unions [GCTU] of the USSR lead the strike movement? Or will it oppose it? In general, what is the practical position of the USSR trade unions in today's conditions?

[Shcherbakov] The trade unions must defend the interests of the people of labor. That is why they are created, to defend their economic, social and legal interests. There has been a lot of criticism about the trade unions. It is highly justified criticism. But the market will now dot all the I's properly. Here on this side you have the workers and their defenders, you have wages, you have social guarantees, you have a proper standard of living. On the other side, you have employers. Whether they are state ones or private owners of this or that enterprise, it is in their interest not to give the worker what he earns. That's to say, the interests are completely opposed. So, in this situation, the situation of transition to the market, the trade union must truly defend both the working class, and, if it is necessary to hold strikes, to have strikes. The trade unions will always be on the side of the workers, on the side of the workers and employees, and will defend them with all possible means, including by means of strikes.

[Correspondent] At the second plenum of the Council of Trade Unions, there was severe criticism of the policy of the Cabinet of Ministers, in particular, the price reform which has led to a sharp drop in the standard of living. What are the measures of the GCTU in these conditions? What is it proposing? What is the Confederaton of Trade Unions insisting on?

[Shcherbakov] We set out our demands in our resoluton. One of the points in this resolution is the immediate conclusion of an agreement between the trade unions and government which would reflect all our demands and the demands, I want to repeat again, on wage questions, on wage rises during this year, to embark practically on a reform of wages, in its entirety, as we move to market conditions, to solve the question of affirming a minimum subsistence level for workers, to solve the question of indexation by legislation, the indexation of incomes: if there are price rises, they must be compensated for. We cannot oppose the government saying that it should not increse prices. That is its right. But, at the same time, we have always demanded, are now, and will go on demanding, that the worker should not suffer because of it. This should be an open, face to face conversation.

The question has come up of the immediate elaboration and affirmation of a minimum subsistence level. What happened? It turned out that if we counted up the [word indistinct] of price rises according to the very strictest measures, I repeat, by the very strictest measures, we came to a figure of a minimum subsistence level, the barest minimum to survive, of 130 rubles. Now, the

calculations show it is 320. You can compare the figures: 130-320, and a compensation of 60 rubles. [Words indistinct] that some of the comrades in the Cabinet of Minsters are not very good at arithmetic. Either they were poor students, or they are deliberately deceiving us. But either way, it isn't right.

[Correspondent] Vladimir Pavlovich, in his speech to the plenum of the GCTU Comrade Pavlov, the USSR prime minister, said wage rises can only be combined with a sharp rise in production output. Today, the situation is such that there is probably no question of a sharp rise in production output. Don't you think that this is a dead end, that the trade unions are asking for the impossible?

[Shcherbakov] Wages must be paid according to labor. If a person has earned it, he must get it. But, unfortunately, our economic system works in such a way that wage [word indistinct] the staff is inflated, and our production is lower not because the workers work less efficiently, but because the management system is so cumbersome that sometimes the results of good work are levelled out. Payment has to be made according to work. Then it will be clear. Pay those who work well, as much as they earn. Then there will be effort, there will be a stimulus labor must be motivated.

[Correspondent] The demands of the trade unions voiced at the plenum spoke of compensation, of raising wages, of reforming wages, and so on. That's to say, a number of economic measures. You are talking about more serious reasons: the inefficiency of the management system, and so on. But, these important aspects, in particular regarding management, are not included in the demands of the GCTU.

[Shcherbakov] Now everyone said, the overwhelming majority agreed, that we are moving to conditions of a market economy [word indistinct] have already forgotten it is the conditions of a regulated market economy. But, as we are moving to this, it is exactly during this transition period, when the workers could suffer most, that there should be particular social protection for people. Our demands are indeed aimed at social protection, because the government, in its promises about social protection, is not fully carrying out its promises.

[Correspondent] The GCTU has prepared a draft agreement between the trade unions and the Cabinet of Ministers. Could you speak, briefly, about the essence of this agreement? What is there in common between the trade unions, and, let's say, the proposals of the Cabinet of Ministers, and where do you differ?

[Shcherbakov] Well, all the elements envisaged in the agreement, the overwhelming majority of the disagreements have been removed, questions connected with people's lives; wage levels, the minimum subsistence level for each person, the question of indexation, the question of compensation for those enterprises which do not have sources of finance, budget organizations. Many questions are put forward in that agreement, but the most important is that it contains vitally important questions for every person.

There is nothing intelligible in it. Everything is comprehensible, just as comprehensible as our resolution: this, that, and the other can be done, and I think that the government will fulfill its promises, and in the next few days these agreements will be definitively examined and signed.

[Correspondent] But, how do you evaluate the fact that in current conditions as has been said with concern, certain rights of the trade unions are being limited? The government will be forced to take efforts if the strike movement does not abate, to take some energetic measures to put a stop to the strike movement. What might be the reaction of the GCTU?

[Shcherbakov] They already can, they already are making efforts. The [word indistinct] of our law provides for the obligatory agreement of the trade union committee for the dismissal of a worker. This norm has always existed in relations between trade unions and the leaders of enterprises. There were attempts to remove it, but we insisted that it return to the law. It did return. Now, our legislators are again removing this article. We are protesting against this, and for this are using parliament and have appealed to the president on this question, so that the law which has just been adopted, the law on trade unions and their rights and guarantees on their activity should be revised, if only in a few months' time. That is on the one hand. On the other hand, several legislative acts are being proposed where Draconian measures are being envisaged against strikers, and against trade unions and the introduction of a moratorium on strikes. I spoke on that issue at the congress, demanded at the congress that the question of the moratorium be raised, and the Congress of People's Deputies supported the trade unions, that no moratorium should be introduced on strikes. But, now, this question is being raised because the situation is an extreme one. Extreme measures need to be taken in the area of finance, in the area of the economy. The first reason is the fact that the strike movement is growing. It is growing because people no longer see any solution, see no other way to defend their interests. They are trying to deprive us of it, not by getting the economy out of the situation it is now in, but by depriving the trade unions of their rights, and the right of every worker to strike.

[Correspondent] So, the dialogue will be a long one?

[Shcherbakov] The dialogue will be complex, difficult. I think there is a very difficult struggle ahead. We are for the rights of the workers. We shall not surrender our positions. On no condition will we agree to the measures which would violate the interests of the workers.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Radio Rossii Updates Miners' Strike Figures

LD1404201491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The situation in the coal mining regions of the country: According to latest reports, 78 mines and 14 mine construction directorates did not work yesterday in the Donbass, according to the Russian Information Agency. The Kuzbass is also paralyzed by strikes. All in all, 93 enterprises were idle in that region, including 48 mines. No coal was being extracted at 12 mines in Vorkuta and at 8 mines in Sakhalin. The miners of Chelyabinsk and Perm oblasts were on strike. In Severouralsk, five mines and three mine construction directorates were not working.

Vorkuta Mines Release Coal to Metallurgic Combine

LD1404223191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The dispatch of coking coal from Vorkuta for the Cherepovets metallurgical combine has been resumed, but the strike by miners of 12 out of 13 Vorkuta mines is continuing as before. A TASS correspondent was told by a duty member of the Vorkuta town workers' strike committee, tunneller Viktor Lakatysh, that yesterday the miners of Vorkuta had received telegrams from Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, and Ivan Silayev, prime minister of the Russian government, containing a request to ensure the necessary supplies of fuel for the Cherepovets metallurgists. The Vorkuta coordinating council for conducting the strike decided to dispatch to Cherepovets the minimum quantity of coal for maintaining the metallurgical combine's coking batteries in working order. It was decided to send it 20,000 tonnes of coal daily from the mines' depots. The miners of the Arctic town are continuing their strike with political demands. They are also insisting on and demanding the immediate conclusion of a general standard tarriff agreement. All five mines and other enterprises in the Intaugol concern are working at full capacity today.

Buryat Miners Begin Strike, List Demands

LD1504102191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 15 Apr 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] A strike has begun at the Kholtuson mine of the Dzhida tungsten-molybdenum combine in Buryat. As reported by Semenov, the chief of this mine, the miners are not pleased with the results of the talks between the Union government and miners. The demands of miners in the metallurgical industry have been ignored. Among them are demands that wages be raised 100 percent or more, and that the provision of food, consumer goods, and tobacco items be improved. The miners, as reported, have advanced not only economic but also political demands.

Scientific

'Buran' Designer Discusses Use, Future Projects

LD1304170491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1615 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Interview with Yuriy Pavlovich Semenov, chief designer of the "Buran" spacecraft, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Gagarin Television Festival" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] At the end of the 80's, calling ourselves a superpower and having built a gigantic industrial- bureaucratic structure and having succeeded almost totally in debunking it with a realistic realization of our place in the world, we again made a spurt ahead of the whole planet: the "Energiya" rocket with the "Buran" reusable spacecraft was launched. [passage omitted]

Many experts have doubts about the desirability of using our reusable system for the conquest of space. Will the giant 100-tonne "Buran" find a use in orbit? Was the money thrown down the drain? Given such questions, the position of the presenter, Chief Designer, Yuriy Pavlovich Semenov, is quite explicable:

[Begin Semenov recording] My view is that "Energiya" and "Buran" are the acme and triumph of all manned cosmonautics, whatever might be said by anybody. Today, we have a complex possessed by no other country in the world. The fact that there are attempts to criticize us is based on a simple misunderstanding. It belongs to the whole people. More than 1,200 organizations took part in the "Energiya-Buran" project. If you talk in numbers, this was 3 million people. [passage omitted]

To answer your question about what our position is today, I can say without any exaggeration that we continue to have the lead in the world today. There's no exaggeration in that. [end recording]

[Announcer] It can be no bad thing when the chief designer gives such a high and categorical appraisal of his own work:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Why is the "Energiya-Buran" system still not working fully, at full stretch?

[Semenov] I can tell you that with "Buran" we were a little ahead of events. That means that "Buran" is a machine. First of all, I have to say frankly that "Buran" was developed to counter the shuttle. It's only now that everyone, including Marshal Yazov, is repudiating it: they say "Buran" is unnecessary. But, I remember lectures back in the 70's, when it was explained that "Buran" can make a pass over Moscow on a return maneuver. We had gotten used to the idea of what it could do, and they were talking to us from a position of strength.

[Correspondent] So, "Buran" was ordered by the defense ministry?

[Semenov] The project was originated by the Defense Ministry, although they are now disowning it. All this took place before my very eyes. It was designed to counter or parry, as it were, the work that was being done in the United States [words indistinct]. The United States followed a false trail. They use the shuttle as their main launch vehicle. They have now had second thoughts. It's costing them a pretty penny. They've only put up several large objects which really merited the use of the shuttle, as had been planned. We took another route and use "Buran"—and plan to continue to do so—where it is indispensable. For example, I cannot see today that the Mir station has any prospect of development without "Buran". That is, some time in 1994 Buran is to go up and reconfigure the "Mir" station, renew certain modules and revise the uses to which "Mir," as a factory for the production of materials and biological compounds, is put, attach modules and return them to Earth. Those are "Buran's" real tasks. But, simply to put satellites into orbit, as the shuttle does, this is very costly. [passage omitted]

"Energiya" can be used with success for assembling large orbiting complexes [words indistinct]. We have experience of docking. We can add bits on, and we effectively have unlimited possibilities. As far as a flight to Mars is concerned, our estimate is 450-500 tonnes. But, we don't necessarily have to develop a 500-tonne carrier rocket. We can achieve the same result by adding on four or five bits. So, we've solved the problem. The United States doesn't have this. There's also the question of a lunar base, if we are to have one. Incidentally, we are inviting them to take part in joint work. There's the Mars program.

"Energiya" ushers in a completely and qualitatively new stage in the field of communications and television and radio broadcasting. I refer to the development of large, heavy standardized platforms on geostationary orbit, platforms which are high powered and require large antenna facilities, multiwire antennas. It is only by means of platforms such as this that our problem of communications and television and radio broadcasting can be fundamentally solved. It has been shown, and not just by our own collective of experts, but practically everyone was involved, including the Institute of Communications, that three such platforms are equivalent to putting in orbit about 40-50 Proton-class satellites. It's not a trolleycar, where you can get on, elbow your way through the crowd, and find a place. The problem today is overpopulation in geostationary orbit. These platforms are the only sensible way to tackle this problem of ours. Small satellites should continue to exist, but they do not solve the problem. Did you know that something like 4-6 such platforms could resolve the global problem of communications and radio broadcasting altogether? In my view, if we spend something like R15-17 billion on this system overall, along with the ground communications—our estimate is R13-17 billion—by the year 2000, if we develop this by 1995, we will get something like R39 billion or R37 billion on the return it will yield, from providing services, and so on. We should not forget that any developed country that wants to double its gross product has to think of quadrupling rapidly the amount of information circulating in society. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Baltic Republics

Baltic Council Statement on USSR Referendum

LD1404164791 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Baltic States Council declaration concerning the decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet regarding the consequences of the USSR referendum of 17 March, 1991; place and date not given]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet decision of 21 March, 1991, regarding the consequences of the USSR referendum of 17 March, 1991, creates a possibility to interpret these consequences as applying to the Baltic states of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Latvia.

In this connection the Baltic states, which are not part of the Soviet Union, declare that the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Latvia proceed along the path which was consolidated in 1990 by their democratically elected Supreme Councils, while adopting the Independence Restoration Acts, as well as by the nations voting in the referendums that took place in the aforementioned states on 9 February and March 1991.

The 17 March USSR referendum has no legal bearing upon the Baltic states in any way and therefore cannot justify the pressure and coercion made by the leadership of the Soviet Union on Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia."

Baltic Council Views Iceland's Mediation Role

LD1304122791 Riga Domestic in Latvian 1100 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The Baltic Council is working in Jurmala today. Estonian Supreme Council Chairman Arnold Ruutel; Indrek Toome, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council's Foreign Affairs Commission; Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautus Landsbergis; and Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Voldemaras Katkus have arrived. The largest delegation is the one from Latvia: Latvian Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs; Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers; Ilmars Bisers, deputy chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers; First Deputy Foreign Minister Martins Virsis; Jazeps Sarkans, Latvian representative in Lithuania; and a group of deputies.

The Baltic Council is now discussing a draft resolution prepared by the Lithuanian side on the mediation of the Republic of Iceland in the organizing and procedure of the talks between the Baltic states and the Soviet Union. This, in fact, is a reply to the initiative of Iceland to be a mediator in the USSR talks with the Baltic states. In the Baltic Council resolution, gratitude has been expressed for this to the Republic of Iceland, and it is stated that the initiative of the Republic of Iceland may have a positive significance in the endeavors to have the Soviet Union again recognize the independence of the republic of Latvia, the republic of Estonia, and the republic of Lithuania, and that, in preparing, with the mediation of the Republic of Iceland, the possible talks of the Baltic states with the Soviet Union, it would be useful for each of the Baltic states to have direct contacts with Iceland.

The Baltic Council is shaping a document which is devoted to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev on the results of the USSR referendum of 17 March, saying they cannot be attributed to the republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia because it was decided there by government resolutions that the USSR referendum was not being held in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, because if these results of the USSR referendum were attributed to the solution of the questions of the Baltics, then this might delay the solution of the problem of our independence.

The Baltic Council will also discuss other documents.

Estonian Popular Front Congress Opens in Tallinn

LD1304115991 Moscow TASS in English 1148 GMT 13 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn April 13 TASS—Matters pertaining to further political development and the economic situation in the Republic are the main items on the agenda of the Estonian Popular Front (EPF) congress that opened here today.

The congress sums up the results of the three-year existence of the EPF which is now one of Estonia's leading political forces.

At a news conference prior to the congress, Ignar Fiuk, chairman of the EPF board, said that "no" to the Popular Front means "yes" to totalitarism. This is a paraphrase of the long-known slogan "He who is not with us is against us". EPF founders used the slogan's variety ("All democratic forces can unite only into a popular front) three years ago when there was campaign all over Estonia for the setting up of the movement's basic support groups.

It is not fortuitous that the EPF leadership now returns to the motto. The EPF is living through a complex period, although some people regard it as the ruling party, since one of EPF leaders, Edgar Savisaar, is the head of the Estonian government.

Several political parties of leftist-democratic trend have branched off from the EPF over the past period. They pursue a line of their own, although their leaders are members of the EPF board.

The protracted government crisis, with the government being still unable to do anything to get Estonia out of the economic slump, is an illustration that these are far from being the best days for the EPF.

The congress is expected to discuss the EPF position in the system of Estonia's political forces, its participation in power bodies, and introduce the necessary changes in the charter and programme of the EPF.

EPF Not To Become Political Party

LD1404214991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 14 Apr—The third congress of the Estonian People's Front [EPF] which ended here today decided not to transform the movement into a political party, although that would have been exactly what Edgar Savisaar, the current head of government and one of the leaders of the EPF, needed. He needs a political organization which supports him now, not only as the head of the Cabinet of Ministers, but also as a potential deputy to the supreme legislative body of the new convocation, since it will be up to parties to nominate candidates to the Estonian Parliament of the next convocation. Delegates to the congress did not approve any of the four ideas for setting up a political party on the basis of the EPF.

The EPF emerged in 1988 as a movement supporting perestroyka. It was soon transformed into a political force supporting the restoration of an independent state for Estonia outside the USSR. This intensified confrontation within society. The Front is now going through a difficult time. Several left-wing parties have split off from it.

According to Mati Kheydmetsa, one of the leaders of the EPF, Estonia will not become an independent state until its independence is "guaranteed both by the East and by the West." In his view the key issue is confidence in the restoration of Estonia's own statehood on the part of the nonindigenous population. "It is time to give up the illusion that the national composition of a future Estonian state will be substantially different from the present composition," he stressed.

This is the second time that the "Russian question" in Estonia has been seriously addressed in the two days of work at the EPF Congress. The first was yesterday in the report by Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar, who noted that the alienation of the Russian community from processes unfolding in society had led to a split and to interethnic tension in society.

The congress adopted a resolution on the program for achieving independence, which proposes gaining control of all of Estonia's territory (including signing a treaty with the USSR on the status of the armed forces in Estonia), and coordinating the actions of all three Baltic Republics until the Baltic Assembly convenes. The Baltic Assembly is the supreme organ of power of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, but has no legislative function.

The EPF Congress also made changes to the EPF program documents and elected a new leadership and a board made up of 11 people.

Tallinn Mayor Aasmyae Asked To Resign

PM1504133391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

["Direct Line" report by Leonid Levitskiy: "No Confidence in the Mayor"]

[Text] Tallinn—Deputies of the Tallinn City Soviet have asked the mayor, Khardo Aasmyae, to resign. He has been given 10 days to consider his response.

Before the city soviet session the work of the mayor and his team was discussed by all factions. The deputies deemed the executive's committee's activity unsatisfactory. Why has this happened? The deputies believe that it is because of mistakes by the mayor, to his predilection for trips abroad. He was so busy studying what foreign cities do that there was no time left for Tallinn's problems.

The deputies carried a vote of no confidence in the mayor by a majority (36-14) in a secret ballot. They requested that he resign. Kh. Aasmyae was not present at the city soviet session. VECHERNIY TALLINN announced that he was taking a short period of leave in Norway.

The conflict between the mayor and the city soviet is of long standing. It is only partly because of subjective factors. The root of it is the two-tier system of local organs: the city soviet and its chairman, and the executive committee and its chairman. Tallinn is not the only city where the two authorities—legislative and executive—have not merged. Perhaps it is wiser to have one real authority?

Commentator Assails Latvian, Lithuanian Moves

PM1504103991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 91 Second Edition p 4

["Pertinent Comments" by Yuriy Shabanov: "Please, Go Away!"]

[Text] Our readers from Riga and Klajpeda have sent the editorial office some highly curious documents. Both concern the future of the Russian-speaking population or, to use the language of louts from extremist organizations there, the "foreign occupiers."

One of the documents is a pamphlet produced by a radical Latvian People's Front [LPF] association that goes by the touchingly charitable name of "Aid Instead of Hatred" and reprinted by SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA. At first glance, local radicals have extremely humane ideas: Ideas of setting up an aid fund for repatriates—that is, those who want to "return to their ethnic home." There is even the noble idea somewhere of helping those leaving the republic to make up for their material losses.

This is the situation only at first glance, because this concerns not only people who want to leave but all non-Latvians. How else are we to understand the passage from the pamphlet that simply insults the human dignity of the Russian-speaking population: "The roughly 900,000 foreign immigrants living in Latvia are a destructive force, undermining the people's traditions and customs, degrading morals, and promoting the Latvians' ethnic downfall." Then the appeal "Decolonialization must begin immediately", sweetened by a pill in the form of monetary subsidies raised by collecting dues and donations.

A gallant gesture, you will agree: "Please, go away!" And make it immediately, the pamphlet clearly states, "without waiting for the critical stage of interethnic clashes to set in." The smiling, compassionate masks have been completely torn off here, revealing the irritatingly familiar face of nationalism: Just try not to leave!

The LPF's radical comrades in arms in Lithuania, however, have no intention of concealing this face. The municipal newspaper KLAJPEDA printed an appeal to citizens of the USSR resident in or intending to choose occupied Lithuania as their place of residence, signed by the "Geneva-49" Committee, the "Young Lithuania" Lithuanian National Youth Union, and Lithuania's Helsinki Group, who are renowned for their nationalist sentiments. The appeal says that Lithuania's "colonization under any pretext by citizens of the USSR is illegal." Geneva Convention documents adopted in 1949 "in relation to occupied countries" are cited to bolster this argument. I will cite the appeal: "The aforementioned Convention prohibits an occupied country being colonized for any reason whatsoever by citizens of the occupying power (Article 49, Part 3)."

We contacted the USSR Foreign Ministry International Legal Administration Treaties Department and asked them to clarify what the Convention "in relation to occupied countries" constitutes. It transpired that no such document exists. It transpired that it is a question of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 "On Defending the Civilian Population in Wartime." Article 49, Part III, Section III contains the following lines: "An occupying power cannot deport or move part of its own civilian population to territory under its occupation."

It is obviously no coincidence that the fans of international law failed to write the document's full title in their appeal. It is immediately clear from the document's title when the convention is applied—**in wartime**. Article 2, Section I of this document clearly enshrines the following: "The present Convention will be applied in the event of war or any other armed conflict declared between two or several High Contracting Parties." Perhaps the radicals there believe that Lithuania has already declared war on the USSR?

What has Lithuania to do with it, incidentally, if we are talking about the Convention? The document only extends to signatory countries; the Lithuanian leadership has not signed it. The document itself (Article 4, Section I) clearly states: "Citizens of any State not bound by the present convention are not protected by it."

That is, of course, so to speak, the pro forma legal aspect of the problem. But if the radicals cite an official document as an argument, they should be guided by clear legal norms. It does in fact look as if they act as follows: Let us extract individual points from a document (somewhat garbled, moreover) to our advantage and hush up the points which it does not pay to show the world. A method that has long since been well mastered both by left-wing and right-wing extremists.

This comes at a time when the Union and the Baltic republics are trying, in very difficult talks, to discern areas of mutual accord and resolve the problems of whether they should separate or unite by peaceful civilized methods. You are sowing the wind, gentlemen. So what will you reap?

Lithuania-Russia Treaty on Russian Speakers

PM1204133891 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Apr 91 First Edition p 4

[V. Litvin report: "Under the Flag of Freedom—The Draft Agreements Between the RSFSR and Lithuanian Governments"]

[Text] The interview with V.B. Isakov, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic, published by our newspaper (23 March 1991) prompted a wide reaction from among our readers. In particular, there were many calls and letters about the prospects alluded to in the item for the forthcoming exodus from Lithuania to the RSFSR of 150,000 Russian-speaking families who, if the drafts of the corresponding interrepublic governmental agreements are anything to go by, are in this way being subjected to blatant discrimination, not to mention the inevitable hardship and torment which accompany a major resettlement of peoples.

Many readers are asking, can it really be true?

To begin with, here is a brief chronology of events. Work on the draft Treaty on the Fundamentals of Interstate Relations Between the RSFSR and Lithuanian Republic began in August 1990. This work was significantly accelerated following B.N. Yeltsin's trip to Tallinn 14 January this year and his meetings there with Baltic republic leaders. At the talks, the Russian delegation was headed by G. Burgulis, plenipotentiary representative of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, who, incidentally, is not an RSFSR people's deputy. At the present time, according to a statement by C. Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, the text of the treaty between Lithuania and the RSFSR is agreed in full and initialed. Following sharp criticism by the Russian-speaking population, vital additions were made to Articles 4, 5, and 6 of the treaty, granting this population a

wide spectrum of political and social rights and freedoms. We can only welcome the introduction of such amendments. But, on the other hand, the question inevitably arises: Why is it that the inclusion in the treaty of a bloc of rights and freedoms generally recognized by international law to be "standard" had do be **forcibly** won under the powerful pressure of mass protest?

Moreover, this is not the most important thing. We all know only too well that even the most just and humane treaty, from the point of view of wording and declarations, can be "amended" by the concrete agreements implementing it so that nothing remains of this justice and humanity but skin and bones, as they say. Article 6 of the treaty states: "The High Contracting Parties will define by special agreements the procedure and terms for resettling citizens moving as a result of **free choice** from the territory of one party to the territory of the other party, and also the mutual obligations with regard to giving them material and other assistance."

Fine words indeed. The "free choice" of people to move from one territory to another is a fundamental and inalienable human right, and there can be no doubt about this. The question arises, however, as to why it is that only recently the problem of such a "free choice" has emerged, and how can one explain the fact that this "choice," to which the draft treaty devotes particular attention, is beginning to acquire **mass character**?

Let us move on to the specific document where the organization of this "free choice" was put at an unattainable "democratic" level—namely, the agreement between the governments of the Lithuanian Republic and the RSFSR on moving USSR citizens and members of their families from the city of Mazeikiai to the city of Vsevolozhsk (Leningrad Oblast). Admittedly the document has yet to be signed, but its basic clauses have already received preliminary "highest-level" approval from the Russian leadership. Thus:

Article 2: 1. USSR citizens and members of their families moving from Mazeikiai City to Vsevolozhsk City will surrender their accommodation in full to the competent authorities of the Lithuanian Republic. On the surrender of their accommodation, the competent authorities of the Lithuanian Republic will issue the said individuals with documents confirming that they have done so and serving as a basis for being granted accommodation in Vsevolozhsk City. Article 3: 1. The Contracting Parties undertake to provide USSR citizens and members of their families moving from Mazeikiai City to Vsevolozhsk City with accommodation in accordance with existing USSR norms on providing living space. 2. The government of the Lithuanian Republic will finance from the Lithuanian Republic budget the design and construction of accommodation in Vsevolozhsk City equal in value to that surrendered in Mazeikiai City. Article 5 [Article 4 not cited] 1. The government of the Lithuanian Republic pays for: — The cost of the railroad journey by USSR citizens and members of their families in a reserved (sleeper) car from Mazeikiai City to Vsevolozhsk City. — Expenses for transporting the belongings of USSR citizens and members of their families from Mazeikiai City to Vsevolozhsk City, allowing up to 500 kg and 150 kg in weight for employable and nonworking persons respectively. 2. The government of the Lithuanian Republic will pay USSR citizens and members of their families moving from Mazeikiai City to Vsevolozhsk City: — a daily allowance of 2 rubles 60 kopeks for each day spent traveling; —a onetime grant equivalent to one month's salary (wages) for those eligible for work, one month's pension for pensioners, and, for minors, one-fourth of the grant payable to either one of the parents, as the family chooses.

Admittedly, we do not know how many inhabitants of Mazeikiai have elected in line with the "free choice" to move to Vsevolozhsk. There is, however, reason to suppose that it will be as many as the Lithuanian leadership wishes. After all, they are the ones who know how to create the necessary conditions for such a "free choice."

Lithuanian Social Democratic Party Leader Resigns

LD1404184291 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Kazimieras Antanavicius, leader of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party [SDP], declared today that he was resigning from this post. He grounded his decision on being too busy in legislature. As is known, he is chairman of the Economic Commission. Apart from this, in his opinion, under conditions of democracy there must be a rotation so it does not appear that someone alone has usurped power.

K. Antanavicius was given the task by the SDP conference to continue to carry out the duties of chairman of the SDP until the Party Congress.

A resolution was adopted at the SDP conference which advocates building an open society in Lithuania and consolidating civil rights and freedoms. The party also stand for the formation of moderate centrist forces and rejects the stance of a firm hand. It recognizes the possibility of holding a constructive debate with all political forces. The SDP will continue to remain a constructive thinking party with regard to the Lithuanian Government.

Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Adopts Republic Budget

PM1204143091 Vilnius EHKO LITVY in Russian 4 Apr 91 p 1

[ELTA report: "At the Republic Supreme Soviet Session"]

[Excerpts] The third Supreme Soviet session continued its work on 2 April. [passage omitted]

At the evening sitting delegates discussed the draft resolution on putting into effect the Law on the Lithuanian Republic State Budget for the Year 1991, and on

normative contributions and subsidies for local self-government budgets. During this document's discussion, appropriations to various spheres were increased.

The resolution was adopted. Finance Minister Elvira Kuniaviciene thanked the Supreme Soviet, which had adopted the Lithuanian Republic's first independent budget.

Lithuanian Spring Army Draft on 'Voluntary Basis'

LD1104192391 Vilnius International Service in English 2300 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The spring call-up to the Soviet Army is to begin at the end of April. Konstantin Golubev, chief of the political department of the Military Commissariat in Lithuania, has assured the daily LIETUVOS RYTAS that the call-up will be carried out on a voluntary basis and will end at the end of June.

He also said that the officers of the Commissariat are going to speak individually with each draft resister. They will try to persuade him to join the ranks of the Soviet army for a 2-year service.

We know quite well the persuasion methods of the Soviet military who resorted to the violent help of paratroopers last spring. In spite of the use of force and psychological pressure, only 17 percent of those liable to serve signed up for service here in Lithuania this autumn.

RSFSR

Yeltsin Discusses RSFSR Congress, Economy

LD1304143991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1211 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Interview with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, by Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company, and commentator Boris Markovnikov; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Poptsov] Boris Nikolayevich, we meet again; again on Russia's radio, your address on Russia's radio. Exactly one week ago the third congress ended; the battles at the congress are over. Nevertheless, this is long enough for everything to settle, for a time of analysis. I think the congress was special. It is not fortuitous that it was called an extraordinary congress; it is not fortuitous that some wish to call it an emergency congress. If one is honest, this was also a congress which had been foisted on people; and it would be a very good thing now, seven days on, to return to this event, quite naturally an event out of the ordinary in Russia' life, and to hear your view and your analysis on this congress.

[Yeltsin] I am glad our meetings have become regular, and I am glad about the meeting with listeners and with the citizens of Russia. Many followed the work of the congress, which is why there is probably no need to speak in detail about the progress of the work of the congress, the progress of the debates at the congress, and its results. I would like nevertheless to dwell on a few of what are, in my view, important factors and general tasks, upon analyzing, and on reflection after the congress.

A great deal happened during nine days of continuous work. There were dramatic events, when the congress turned out to be on the verge of breakdown. There were also moments of insight, when the majority of deputies were imbued by state responsibility for the destiny of the Russian Federation. There also were minutes and hours, I would say, for which many deputies will simply be ashamed, perhaps ashamed for the rest of their lives, ashamed before their own conscience and before their own voters.

The main thing is that those who conceived it—and they are the Communists of Russia group of deputies—did not succeed in foisting on the congress the scenario of a personal case, of squabbles between various deputies' groups, and so forth. They were unable to foist on the congress a scenario of accusations alone against the leaders of the Supreme Soviet. Gradually, gradually, it was possible to turn the congress from a Nuremberg trial onto the rails of constructive proposals to get out of the state of crisis Russia finds itself in today. This, in my view, is the most important thing.

There are many problems. At least, after the shock when our 500 days program compiled by Shatalin and Yavlinskiy was killed, we have nevertheless over the last few months created our own Russian program—not a Union program but a Russian one—retaining many of the principles of the talented group which compiled the 500 days program. If one were to go through the congress, as it were, day by day....

[Poptsov] Beginning it again, so to speak.

[Yeltsin] Yes, yes, it was a remarkable congress, since on the very first day the congress made a weighty pronouncement opposing the seige conditions into which the congress has been thrust on orders of the country's president and prime minister. I think that nothing of the kind had effectively ever occurred in history before. The troops were of course not being used to protect the 29 deputies who appealed to the president for protection from voters; the idea was to prevent Muscovites from expressing their support for the Russian leadership and policies it pursues.

However, the Russian deputies, in a fairly fundamental way, raised the issue and demanded normal conditions for their work—not under siege, not inside a ring of armor, but normal conditions. They suspended the sitting of the congress until such time as the troops were taken away. Such a decision was adopted, and it was brought to the president's attention.

On the evening of 28 March, the situation in Moscow reached a critical point. Many Russian deputies, along

with the voters, emerged to march in the capital; and I must say that it was precisely—or to a great extent—thanks to them that the clashes that could have been provoked were successfully avoided. One must say that they were people of diverse convictions and diverse political stands, including democrats, progressive-minded Communists, nonparty people, and others. Despite their differences, they were united by a sense of enormous responsibility to their voters and a profound awareness of their duty to defend them against the possible danger of a shift towards violence. The congress would then indeed have gone over to general civil disobedience. No one needed that. However, this was obviously not understood by those who had been organizing these defensive zones.

By the joint efforts of deputies, the electorate, and Muscovites, we succeeded in restoring the situation in Moscow to normal and managed to get the troops withdrawn. Only afer that did the congress resume its work on the following day.

The main issue which the deputies discussed was a program of measures to get out of the crisis in our republic. After sharp and difficult discussions, this issue was put on the agenda. Unfortunately, only one version of a program was proposed, although we counted on other groups of deputies to propose alternative programs so that we could take something from other programs. The Communists of Russia group and its orators, primarily the six members of the Supreme Soviet leadership who signed the political statement which was primarily against the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian parliament, could not offer the congress any sort of different program or even a hint of one. This is not because they were not given the chance to speak. No. Every one of them spoke.

But, the main theme was a different one: not the search for a way out of the deep crisis but the battle with the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the battle with the chairman of the Russian Federation's Council of Ministers. A battle until victory; a battle for their removal from office. I consider that the matter here lies not only with personalities who do not suit some people, but it is a struggle against the policy which has been carried out over the last few months by the Russian bodies of authority. It is a battle against the strengthening of Russia, the sovereignty of Russia, against the policy of reform, a battle in favor of restoring one party's monopoly of power and the system under which the country has been groaning for more than 70 years already. That is why no alternative program emerged. In order to go backwards, such a program was simply unnecessary. We were being pushed, and are being pushed, into going back, into returning to the old positions. As some of the media are now putting it—returning to the trenches. As if all one needed to do were to use force and intimidation to restore so-called order, and once again issue commands and directions left and right! The majority of deputies rejected it—and fairly sharply and categorically at that. The Communists of Russia group, as at the first and second congresses, remained in the minority. The deputies did not follow them.

[Markovnikov] It is very curious, is it not, that in an article now appearing in the press, and at the first news conference, the losers have been calling the congress a victory for them. It must be a unique case.

[Yeltsin] There is nothing else they can do. There was one statement at the congress by their chairman, also in the name of the so-called victory. We will not forget that they set themselves such a task, and we will use this task as our starting point. They set themselves the task of getting rid of Yeltsin and Silayev. They set it at the congress. They did not succeed in this, and results must be evaluated. The congress confirmed its commitment to the Russian policy of reinforcing the Republic's state sovereignity and approved as a whole the program which was painstakingly worked out prior to this. Six groups worked on it, then three groups joined together and the result was a fairly comprehensive program of measures for getting out of the crisis.

It will now be finalized as quickly as possible, considering the observations expressed by deputies. After its adoption by the Supreme Soviet, it wil be put into practice. In general, it is already beginning to function. Thus, six months after the 500 days program was rejected by the Union leadership, another one has been prepared, but this time applying only to Russia. In their principles, these programs are similar: They proceed from the need for radical reform on a market basis. The program of measures adopted by the third congress was prepared with the present economic situation in mind, the crisis which has intensified sharply and the decline in the population's standard of living. In other words, it is as though it has been adjusted to all Russian situations. If they had agreed to the 500 days program then and begun it in the autumn, the current losses would not have occurred. There would not have been the need to carry out that retail price reform, because its conditions were set out and elaborated very elegantly. I would say in the 500 days program, and it would not have hit the population's standard of living as hard as it has done now. That is the mistake of the country's present leadership.

It must be said that if we delay now, the scale of the losses will be immeasurably greater. I think all Russians understand that. There will not be a miracle, and the crisis will not disappear on its own. We need a firm policy on carrying out reforms. The program of measures to get out of the crisis adopted by the third congress is also distinguished from the 500 days program by the act that, unlike then, we have now borne in mind that the center might not like it and that, instead of joint efforts to implement it, we will recieve a haughty refusal. Perhaps we were rather naive in putting too much trust in the president then, but in politics you have to trust your country's leader—and not just in politics.

In the autumn, such an attitude was a blow for the Supreme Soviet and the Government of Russia and for all Russians; we simply were all morally unprepared for such a blow, for such a reply. Now this possibility has been considered, and the program adopted by the congress is calculated for Russia alone. It virtually obviates any reaction by the center to this program. That is, talking in space terms, it has been protected from radiation. It is being adopted not as a Union-wide program, as the 500 days program was, but as a Russian program.

Of course, this does not mean that we intend to shut ourselves off from other republics, from the Union sector of the economy, to break all interrepublican links. Of course, this is simply impossible, and it would be naive to think about this. Everything in our country is closely interlinked. The regions, enterprises, and collectives are closely interlinked in a single economic expanse, and Russia is one of its important components.

In implementing the program, we will to a great extent develop links between republics, relying primarily on the treaties and agreements which Russia already has with many of them. We will coordinate economic policy and harmonize our actions. The opportunities lie in the fact that the majority of republics have also adopted a policy of deep economic transformations. They, too, have quarrels with the center. It is simply perhaps that these are not so noticeable because everything is focused on the question of relations with Russia, between the center and Russia.

Perhaps the fact that most of the republics, including ourselves, are moving in the same direction, a coordinated direction—at least the five major republics, with each of whom we have treaties—and by our joint efforts we will influence the center and the Union departments. [sentence as heard] We do not need such a mega [as heard] on the scale of the center which exists today. We need independent republics and a mini coordinating center. Our president does not like this title: coordinating president. Evidently, if a president really is needed for such sovereign states in a union, then it is only as a coordinating president, or else he is not needed at all; then, all that is needed is a collective body, such as the Federation Council. I think such a path will make it possible to make more definite the center's relations not only with Russia, but also with other republics.

I do not wish to conceal from you, esteemed inhabitants of Russia, that it will be extremely difficult to implement the reform. The pit in which we find ourselves is too deep. We need more than a simple policy of reforms. I would say that we need an emergency policy.

It was proposed to the congress to redistribute temporarily the functions of the supreme bodies of power of Russia. The chief aim of this redistribution is this: It is considerably necessary to raise the effectiveness of power, especially in day-to-day actions. Emergency decisions should not take weeks to prepare. These measures on food, as well as political, economic, social, ethnic measures, that is, the whole tempo of measures, should be accelerated while people still, to a certain extent, have hope in the Russian parliament and the Russian leadership.

[Markovnikov] Boris Nikolayevich, I would say there were three climactic points. The first thing was when the question was asked three times in a camouflaged way—in general and on the whole, when we were discussing the decision—the question of trust in the chairman of the Supreme Soviet was asked. The second thing is the situation that we would call—I think even you said it—the effect of the split, that is, the split of the Communists of Russia faction. The third high point is Yeltsin's statement.

I would like us now, as we talk about the congress, to touch on those elements, particularly the last two. Why did Yeltsin's statement appear? When did that idea emerge? Why is redistribution necessary?

[Yeltsin] That is the first question, which was actually about powers. The mass media had speculated that Yeltsin had been granted emergency powers; he was asking for them, and so on. But, that is for those who either did not understand or who specially, deliberately distort the heart of the matter. Yes, in fact, when such a sufficiently powerful decision was adopted, even so it was precisely such a decision that proved possible to adopt. [sentence as heard] It may not satisfy us on many points. They were not understood, so the decisions were not adopted. All the same, they are constructive decisions. But when you hear this emphasis all the time on the Supreme Soviet and the chairman, the Council of Ministers and the chairman, when you see that this is not the time for that—it is literally 1991—then the following question arises: When you look at the Constitution, you ask yourself what is given to those bodies which are instructed to discharge all that: the Supreme Soviet, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers, and the chairman of the Council of Ministers? I reached the conclusion that a redistribution of powers was needed. I categorically reject the fabrication that emergency powers are being given to Yeltsin. That is quite usual. I would even say, as many of my companions-in-arms say, that it is even modest from my point of view, when compared with the immensity of the tasks, to pose the question of the redistribution of powers. In other words, part of the powers seem to come from the congress and redistribute themselves in favor of the Supreme Soviet, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and, for executive power, the Council of Ministers and the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

That is all. No extraordinary powers are given to the chairman of the Supreme Soviet by this. No, and again no. It is the reallocation of authority for a more speedy solution of all questions. Since the pace of all these transformations is really such that we can no longer wait from congress to congress, we must make decisions

between congresses which are within the competence of the congress. We will make such decisions.

If the Supreme Soviet is on vacation and it is necessary to make a decision, the Presidium will make a decision. Or, if it is difficult for the Presidium to meet somewhere and it is in favor of adopting a decision, the chairman will adopt the decision.

This, in fact, is the crux of the matter. At the moment, all this is constitutionally protected, protected legally in the sense that there can be no confusion here, as if this is an increase in some kind of personal power. No. It is excluded. On the contrary, I consider I took too great a risk, because the number of tasks that have been set are nevertheless considerably greater than the powers, even with this reallocation. And in 60 days' time, if someone is elected president of the country—whoever it is—the Supreme Soviet, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the chairman and so on will still have to account for this period. That is the first question.

The second question regards the Rutskoy effect, a very curious situation, psychologically. I can say about my family—I do now know how it is with you—after my departure from the CPSU, for reasons known to you, and my statement at the 28th party congress—in my family some resigned immediately; others, let us say my wife, thought about it for six months. It is possible to imagine millions of party members as honest but not so profoundly fixated on the idea of a rosy future. It is also difficult for them to leave, psychologically difficult. There are other reasons. Suddenly, there appears an unexpected procession of proposals from a Communist, the chairman of one of our Supreme Soviet committees, Rutskoy. He proposed to a number of Communists: Let us form a faction, Communists for Democracy. Literally over a few days at the congress, the deputies group, the Communists for Democracy faction, was formed by 170 people.

It was a unique phenomenon, but we must think ahead. It was greeted with great interest, and many Communists responded immediately. This Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy effect, as it is now called, is based on his personality and his qualities of honesty, openness, and a certain stubbornness. You know, he somehow draws people to him. He is pleasant and interesting to work with.

[Markovnikov] At this congress, he was a completely different person and has undergone a colossal evolution.

[Yeltsin] Quite so. Yes, you know the way he tells it; and I have met him on numerous occasions; he has very frequent meetings with constituents in Kursk Province and neighboring oblasts. His constituents and their point of view and outlook have a very strong influence on him. He came to the conclusion that he should not confine himself to [words indistinct] but should try to draw in others, too, including Communists who support democracy. There are many of these people, and they are not just young people. It is understandable that young people should be inclined that way, but the most interesting thing is that there are also veterans who have ralized to what extent we have been plunged into this difficult predicament. Indeed, to meet their duty as citizens and as Communists honestly, they can combine this now.

[Poptsov] Here is an interesting point. I have an article from the 11 April IZVESTIYA headlined: "Come Out of the Trenches? What for?." A group of Communists regards events at the congress as a process that will invariably transcend the Russian congress and might altogether prove of fundamental significance to the situation and the events taking place within the CPSU and, in particular, within the Russian Communist Party.

[Yeltsin] I can well believe this given the situation and in view of the fact that, as a result of more than 70 years of the ruling party, we have reached a point at which people have been so humiliated that I think in no country are people in a more isulting position. There are people in the CPSU who are responsible for this. Many somehow reproach themselves for this. Perhaps they do so unjustly at times. But for all that they are Communists. This sort of way out is psychologically and politically very compelling; and it will, of course, transcend the Supreme Soviet and the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. I think it will even go beyond Russia itself.

[Markovnikov] Boris Nikolayevich, when you were mounting the rostrum to make your statement, were you sure of support or did you feel you were submitting yourself to a certain risk?

[Yeltsin] Deep down, yes. I had an alternative plan prepared, to resign if I failed to win support. Although at the same time I constantly had in mind a picture of my meetings with the working class. Was it accidental that Yeltsin travelled to Leningrad, to the Kirov works, just a day before the congress, three days before? I could get a feel for what the working class was breathing and feeling at that precise point in time, whom it believed, and whom it did not believe at all, whom it hoped in, what it wanted to do. I got a feel for things there.

At the moment when there is indeed already a crisis, all the same there is the support of the working class. They stated outright that they would embark on any measures if something were to happen at the congress.

This was, after all, understood by the Communists, too. They understood this at perhaps the most decisive moment. Polozkov spoke, saying that no, we are not against this. Let a few work in the meantime. We will give them the opportunity.

It is they [the party] who give orders, not the people. It is the people who gave them the opportunity to work. But all the time there were meetings—there were thousands of meetings, thousands upon thousands of them—and all the time they warned me: Do not leave, no matter what, just do not let us down yourself. This is the working class, and not just a scenario drawn up, in accordance with which this whole meeting is taking place. No! And

I, even though I banished this thought, nevertheless, it kept returning. But somehow I saw that, perhaps not in the variant that I proposed it, but nevertheless, it is a realistic statement, I hope.

[Poptsov] Boris Nikolayevich, the decision in the first variant, which, regrettably, was turned down, in my view and in the view of a vast number of deputies, was the very productive idea of a roundtable. I would like you to touch on this problem. For this problem is not a fortuitous one for you. You have spoken about it many times. How do you regard it now? How feasible do you feel it is to implement this idea, which personally—in my view—is extremely productive?

[Yeltsin] It seems to me, and so far I am convinced that this idea is very, very productive, not only, not so much for Russia, but for the whole country. Why is it that, in several variants, being in the draft decision, it was nevertheless not supported by the deputies? It even looks strange. Afterward the analysis showed of course that voting against it was not only the Communists of Russia, but also a few other representatives....

[Poptsov, interrupting] Agrarians.

[Yeltsin] Agrarians, yes, a proportion of the autonomous entities. But then you think, well, why if this does not hurt anyone? This is, after all, some striving, some civil peace (?we might) have after all. Today there is complete discord. Today there is a struggle of some with others.

This idea is not my invention. There is a European roundtable, there is a roundtable in Poland, there is a roundtable in other countries. That is to say, when it is impossible to come to an agreement in the government, in the leadership, on one matter, or with other political and public forces, then such an instrument is created which could indeed work out a general mechanism for influencing these processes.

A roundtable should be convened involving Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and other representatives of the republics, leaders and representatives of the CPSU and of other parties and workers' movements; strike movements, including the miners—those who today have the greatest influence on all processes in our country.

I am convinced that now there is no other solution. Laws are not operating. Neither are decrees. So, what is to be done? Following the meeting between the miners and the government, more mines have been shut down. They say: We do not believe, nor will we ever believe it. We do not believe the president of the country. But does this question not need to be resolved somehow? Yes it does. Otherwise, that will be it, the country will disintegrate. All it has—its coal, metallurgy, its chemical industry, machine building, transport, consumer goods, agriculture—all this is tied up with that, as the saying goes.

Therefore it seems to me extremely important that all political forces immediately begin a dialogue based on the principal of a roundtable. In spite of the fact that the Congress has not adopted a decision to this effect, I will still insist on this. I will make a separate statement exhorting every political party and republican leader, every people's and strike movement, etc. to sit down at the negotiating table, and while sitting around it—this body will be provisional, of course—and to define the mechanism for the interaction of all forces: In some places there are problems to be resolved. In other places, however, it will have to be agreed to impose a temporary moratorium on strikes or to resolve some other questions.

I still do not understand why there has not been any reaction from the president. Perhaps he has yet to react. Perhaps he is excited at the moment over his trip to Japan. Therefore he may have other things on his mind than domestic affairs. But nevertheless, I think the current situation in the country is such that if miners are followed in their actions by metallurgists, this will lead to ruin. This will not just be a crisis, but ruin. And that will lead to the ruin of the system. On the one hand, it seems such a collapse of the system is needed. On the other hand, this will lead to people suffering, and that in turn is likely to lead to full civil insubordination—that also is no good.

[Poptsov] Boris Nikolayevich, we will have this redistribution of duties in such a short time—60 or 70 days perhaps, until the president assumes office. What do you think you would like to do, and should definitely do, in this period?

[Yeltsin] I would like to return to one of your questions which I did not answer—you did not notice that. This is the question of the vote of confidence, which did not occur. You know, this was put directly in one of the articles of the draft resolution—the question of political trust toward the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, first of all, and the Council of Ministers—also one of the versions, suggested later on—to regard their work as unsatisfactory. The question was put directly there—and this did not pass. This shows that the support depended on many deputies, some tactical forces, and of course the influence of the electorate. This was a time of sharp rise in electorate activity, because everybody was really worried that such a constitutional coup would happen at the Congress and that the leadership would be changed. After all, the Russians, as I see it, still trust us. All those present in the audience felt responsible for the outcome should such an event have happened.

What steps do I consider necessary to be taken now? First of all—and I have already convened the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Presidium of the Council of Ministers—we must clearly single out the tasks of the congress question by question: What measure, who will be responsible, and in what timescale. Frankly speaking, the so-called Six—let them not take offense at this, this has simply become an everyday expression, and there were very loyal attitudes toward them, say, from my side, ever since they began work in the Supreme Soviet. They are all professionals in their field, but never mind. We

should give them the opportunity to adapt, but nevertheless, they were not made to account as they should have been. Well, now the time has passed, and they themselves have reminded us of this with their political statement. Well, they reminded us, and now we will write down clearly what each of them should be doing, the requirement placed on them, and demand they report back to the Presidium, to the Supreme Soviet, to the chairman. So, if you know how to work, then work. After all, I did not put the question on a principle either-or—either me or you.

No, I do not think that's how it should be done at this stage. Let them work, but let them prove that they can work. But if they cannot, that is another matter. All discussed these problems very specifically and in great detail, just as we did at the Council of Ministers, and the complaints of the farmers, which are in many respects certainly just, and the upshot was that in the budget we increased the financing considerably. It is precisely in the agrarian sector that we have been accused most of all of not having done our work thoroughly. That is fair. We allocated almost twice as much finance to the agrarian sector this year, yet have nevertheless been effectively pushed back to some prearranged position by the decision of the Union leadership on wholesale prices for everything: Building materials, production, metal, and so on. And the country people did not have that money. But by handing them over for what you like, two or three times more, physically they found themselves in almost the same position, socially and so forth. Well, possibly it is our fault that we have left it just a bit too late to adjust this. The discontent was already being felt, that such prices—even though this again was the mistake of the Union leadership that such wholesale prices were introduced, and then were followed by corresponding retail ones, and now we have a spiral.

I say all the time that I am against that approach to reform: Start by unloading everything onto the shoulders of the people. Today I still say I am against it. And I think that is what life will show, in the end. I am sure of it. Well, to return to the farmers. Of course we must now try, perhaps by some sort of compensation, perhaps by means of tax incentives of some kind, to give them an advantage, as we promised at the Second Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies. Give them some sort of priority. Because today food is the priority of priorities. Second, on food there is now a special program which we shall now implement with great vigor.

[Poptsov] The farmers are saying that Yeltsin has redistributed obligations to introduce food requisitioning.

[Yeltsin] No. I met them afterward and we were half-joking about this, but as for someone taking this seriously, no not at all. There will be no food requisitioning. On the contrary. We introduced, if you recall, a 40 percent sales tax and a 30 percent Russian state procurement, and they asked, give us liberties, give us liberties. Then whole oblasts began appealing: No, we do not want 70 percent. Let us have 100 percent state order, tax in kind and state order, let it be 100 percent. That caused a surprise: You asked for freedom, and now you are refusing it. Well, there certainly are nuances there, for which the farmers are not yet ready. But that was far from all oblasts, just some them. I think it is stabilizing, all the same, although we have proceeded very flexibly. In order not to break the law, we told the oblasts which wanted to have 90 or 100 percent: You apply, and the Council of Ministers, say, agrees to resolve it, as an exception, like this: We will lay down for you, say, 90 percent on milk or meat, together, aggregated, tax in kind and state order, temporarily, for this year only. But over half did not apply. This is it then.

The next thing of course, is the destabilization of the economy and finances, and the implementation of reforms. We must be more energetic here and we must not jib under any circumstances. What we are now being pushed to by a large group of conservatives in the country as a whole is a course which will lead us to an abyss and not just a return to the old positions. The issue of land must be resolved right now; it is in the spring that the land reform must be implemented, and we must now do as much as possible. There are certain oblasts where real sabotage is taking place, as far as the implementation of land reform is concerned, yet it alone can save us today. Everyone who wants it must be given a garden, a vegetable garden, a plot of land for building a house or farm—everyone who wants to work on land. This is very important. Well, the social problems of the countryside are connected with this.

Now to the measures of social protection for the population. Unfortunately, they are unsatisfactory in our country. Even for the military. In Russia we want to adopt some kind of law on the social security of servicemen and their families. Well, it has been argued that Russia does not have its own army. That is right, it does not. But we cannot dispute the situation the Army finds itself in today. Not only is it in a desperate state of moral humiliation; it also lacks material protection. For instance, someone, the head of the family, say, may go off somewhere, get into trouble, and there is nobody to turn to in married quarters. Therefore, we, the Soviet power, our laws, must protect them socially against this arbitrary treatment and indifference on the part of all those people in charge of military quarters, and so on. We must protect them.

Not only this—the whole range. We want to raise minimum pay. We want to reduce the work week from 41 to 40 hours, to raise minimum leave, for all categories of working people, to 24 working days, for all categories. At the moment this is being studied by the Supreme Soviet. We want to raise allowances for those temporarily unable to work. So, these are the forms of social security which are needed, first and foremost, for working people on low incomes. Social security in society is poor.

But of course, there is the question of making the work of organs of power more effective, from top to bottom. Their organizational structures must be reorganized. The way they discharge their duties must be improved. They must be made more accountable. The demands made of them need to be more exacting. More diligence needs to be shown. There are questions of law and order. In other words, there are many questions which now require this type of speedy, fast reaction. And they must be resolved, from top to bottom. They must be resolved specifically during these days.

Continuing this topic, the subject of what still needs to be done, I believe that literally every deputy must get involved in this now. It is not only Yeltsin who must answer after the congress. There are 1,000, over 1,000 of them—in fact, 1,068. Every deputy should answer for the work, for the decisions adopted at the congress. They should do so in their own constituencies, to their own electors. They should work with their own leadership, the leadership of their districts, towns, oblasts, republics, and so on and so forth. They should work in the Supreme Soviet, in the committees and commissions of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet. They should not remain uninvolved. No. Each representative chosen by the people, as they say, must also be accountable.

[Poptsov] Boris Nikolayevich, to end our conversation, you quite recently uttered the curious words: The team of Yeltsin is his electorate. I would like you to give an assessment of this thesis which is very characteristic today: There is the Gorbachev team, the Bush team, the Yeltsin team. What is a team, and in particular, how do you understand the Yeltsin team?

[Yeltsin] I do not like this definition, or even this combination of words. It is a semi-military, semi-civilian, difficult concept. But since it is being used, I do not understand it in the primitive sense in which many people wish to understand it or do understand it, that this is a team of close associates, that it is made up of eight or ten or 15 or a maximum of 20 people, that these are helpers, advisers, and so on. This is not how it is. Ten people cannot have such a profound influence on the situation in the republic of Russia and even more so in the whole country.

Although this is, of course, very important, because intellect is intellect. By a team I mean, if such terminology is to be used at all, there are, in fact, several levels. The first one is the electorate. If you do not enjoy the trust of the electorate, you should not take it upon yourself to give orders, so to speak. You should not take it upon yourself at all. If the authorities do not enjoy people's trust, this means there is no authority at all. No matter what levers of force the authorities may posses—the army, the KGB, the Interior Ministry, and so on and so forth—it is useless. The authority necessarily presupposes a combination of two things: The levers, but also trust of the people. If you do not enjoy tust, all is useless. So the main team is the electorate, which, so far, it seems to me—at least, I have been meeting... I have already travelled through half of Russia and more—and I am thankful to the electors, to those who do trust today, so far... because I am sure that the credit that has been given for two years—the stabilization of the economy and, then, the improvement of people's lives... I still believe in it today.

Then comes the next level of the team, so to speak. This is the leaders of departments, of Soviets and so on, specifically, of the democratic Soviets—Moscow, Leningrad, Volgograd, Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, and so on. This is also the team.

Then comes the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation. This is also the team. Then the aides, assistants, the Supreme Consultative Committee, or rather, Council, a coordinating council. The supreme intellect, I would say, put together by Russia in this council. This is, therefore, the top team. No man would ever have the kind of intellect which is being put together in such a collective intellect, where really top people participate. Moreover, because it is not tied up administratively—it works on a voluntary basis—therefore its members are not prejudiced the way they would be if they were paid a salary by us. They are therefore more sincere and frank. They really do say what they think, what they believe—and this is really important. When, after a meeting of such a council, one goes back home, one thinks: You have really been saturated today in this human wisdom.

The mass media, really wants to uplift Russia and fights for Russia, for Russia's own media, and for the truth which is, unquestionably, still being blockaded today. No doubt, there is still a great shortage of information today. They—and you, too—are still striving to reach the people. This is also the team. So, this is far too broad a notion, and it should be by no means narrowed down.

[Poptsov] Boris Nikolayevich, you have a visit to the European Parliament on your schedule, at the invitation of the European Parliament. I hope to talk to you again after your return, and I would like to wish you a successful visit.

[Yeltsin] Thank you. I am very greatful to you. It is really time to go to such a large-scale forum of politicians of Europe—the European Parliament—and speak there, and then meet a number of leaders. It is time for Russia to come out. Russia is trusted, and we would like to use this trust to start a dialogue with other countries of Europe and of the world. I would like now to thank all the listeners in Russia and to seek their active cooperation for our policy. Because this is a policy for the sake of the people of Russia, for the people of Russia and for Russia. Only by joining our efforts will we be able to turn this unfavorable course of events, a most unique one in history. All that has been planned—and now this program will be implemented—it is oriented toward the people.

At the same time, it is aimed at destroying the hitherto existing command and administrative system, a system which is again pressing to return, and return all of us to those times when there were only calls for a radiant future. This will not do any longer. The people have changed, and the democratic forces have also now begun seriously to consolidate. Until our next meeting, esteemed people of Russia!

[Poptsov] Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Thank you, comrade.

Russian Deputies View Congress Performance

PM1204142791 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Apr 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by N. Garifullina and A. Gamov under the "Congress Echo" rubric: "For the Good of Russia""]

[Text] The nine-day marathon extraordinary Third Congress of RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] People's Deputies has ended. The Union and world press and indeed the people's deputies themselves assess its results differently. Some of the latter now give their impressions of the congress' work to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA readers.

Z.N. Oykina, chairman of Saratov Oblast's "Rassvet" collective farm.

I was most struck by the low standard of democracy at this congress, though to be quite frank we have no democracy: Everyone has forgotten about it, just as they have about pluralism. Our Congress receives favorably only those things which satisfy Democratic Russia. I am not saying that there are no attacks from other parties, including the Russian Communists bloc, but this is just jeering at one another.... At the first congress we kept silent. After all, the majority of Democratic Russia deputies are in their element when at the microphone but people like me, for example, who come from the provinces, tend to work a lot and say little, and our provincial modesty is a great hindrance to us at our congress. But we are learning, though not always from the best examples: For instance, we are learning how to slow-handclap or to shout speakers down as the "democrats" do so very skillfully.

But what shook and really upset me was the reaction of the "democrats" themselves to the speech by Svetlana Petrovna Goryacheva during the first few days of the congress. To sit in the hall hearing the furious shouting and jeering and seeing the faces of deputies twisted by malice and hatred was incredibly hard. From the moment she began speaking at that Supreme Soviet session I felt in my heart that she was speaking the truth. I admire her courage and wholly agree with her position.

When the sociological service asked what emotions people experience at the congress, I wrote: "Fear of fascism." Only now do I understand that Svetlana Petrovna's warning, to our great misfortune, has real foundation.

The "democrats" antagonize people by their aggressiveness and utter rejection of other people's viewpoints. That is why from the very outset they rounded on the authors of the political statement without even attempting to understand their alarm or to analyze their arguments. I think that many voters have begun to see things clearly now; although admittedly that insight is slow and difficult, nevertheless it is coming!

Our congress was held in an anxious atmosphere because the threat of miners' strikes hung over it like the sword of Damocles. I was constantly trying to reach the microphone to say: "Comrades, things are difficult for the miners, no one denies that, but they were noticed after they went on strike. Perhaps we agrarians should follow their example, too? Let us strike for a week or two during the sowing work. We support the miners now; when we are together we will support each other!" But we will sow the grain no matter what government is in power because bread is the basis of everything. Without bread life stops....

V. Tsoy, chairman of the board of the "EKSPA" state cooperative concern, Khabarovsk City:

The congress' road to agreement was very arduous. So many times it was on the verge on collapse, and when the confrontation seemed to have reached its peak Ivan Kuzmich Polozkov spoke. I was not at all surprised by Polozkov's speech because I have always considered him an intelligent, far-sighted politician. His speech did much to stabilize the situation. It is good that many deputies' groups have begun to close ranks and that Yeltsin has recently begun to pursue a consolidating line. He has already ceased making statements about Gorbachev's resignation, the transfer of power to the Federation Council, and so forth. In other words, it seems to me, Boris Nikolayevich has drawn certain conclusions....

The congress was convened at the right time because the atmosphere in Russia is complex, there is a rash of strikes, and the people are sinking into poverty. I think it is right that we gave Yeltsin the opportunity and that he has made the question of the immediate cessation of all strikes one point in his program. Yes, it seems that just yesterday he himself was calling for strikes, but you have to bear in mind that politics means making choices. In all three congresses I have voted as a centrist and I shall continue to support the centrist position. You can talk about that or do something about it. It is difficult. That is why I think that Yeltsin's position has evened out. Whereas before he said one thing which we could not accept, now he is finally making positive steps, and we should surely not look back to the things which he himself rejects. I do not intend to regard him now as a savior and create a new cult around him, but I cannot ignore the fact that the man was willing to assume

responsibility and did so after the statement by Polozkov, who understood the situation, assessed it correctly, and chose the situation precisely. All this indicates that even we, such different people with positions which are sometimes polar opposites, can understand one another and meet each other halfway. And that, in my view, is the main result of the congress....

Major S. Glotov, a teacher at the Krasnodar Missile Troops Higher Military Command Engineering College:

Both the course of the congress itself, the resolutions adopted, and the way in which they were adopted need further consideration and analysis.

I shall talk about something which I categorically disliked—the level of competence of certain speakers. I believe that a speech from the congress platform imposes a major responsibility for each fact or argument presented. Unfortunately, some speakers were patently not responsible enough for the words they used. When M.L. Zakharov, chairman of the soviet of the republic's Commission for Social Policy, delivered the co-report he did not simply indulge in tactless comments about the Soviet Army but also displayed what was, to put it mildly, a total ignorance of military expenditure. I recall that he said that it is necessary to reduce by 20-30 percent the amount that "we transfer to the center to finance this all-consuming complex." I asked him a question—what are his sources for the statistics he cites that our military spending is R200 billion. Essentially he did not give a clear answer to my question, nor could he, because the official figures are completely different. Military spending in our country is indeed rising this year by approximately R [rubles] 27 billion, but that is due to the increase in prices and nothing else. Whereas weapons purchases and appropriations for personnel upkeep are not rising. In real terms, that is, using last year's prices, this spending represents a R5 billion reduction. Nevertheless, talk about this is going on, and some people clearly would very much like to drive a wedge between the army and the people by using this thesis. There was anti-army hysteria at this congress and this, of course, in human terms is very painful and offensive and from the political viewpoint is simply stupid and short-sighted. I believe that realistic deputies understand this perfectly well.

S.P. Goryacheva, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet:

In my view, the congress may be considered successful in the sense that a frank discussion took place here. There was a serious analysis of the economic and political situation which has developed now in both the Russian Federation and the country as a whole.

Nowadays we are often being asked questions like: Do the authors of the political statement not fear dismissal? Anyone who has followed the course of the sessions closely will have noticed that Boris Mikhaylovich Isayev in his speech proposed that the congress resolve the question of confidence in the Supreme Soviet leadership. Furthermore, an amendment on the resolution on the first question also envisaged that position, and the congress expressed its clear opinion on that score. In brief, we did not shy away from such questions but initiated them. As a lawyer I believe that we must act within the limits of the Constitution.

Regarding this I would like to note that the resolution on the redistribution of powers among the supreme state organs of the RSFSR which the congress adopted differs favorably from the option initially proposed by B.N. Yeltsin. It envisages a number of restrictions. In particular, point one of this document includes an amendment to the effect that additional powers be granted within the framework of the existing RSFSR Constitution. But unfortunately the next point contradicts that wording. That is why the resolution adopted has a highly contradictory character.

Furthermore, it is difficult to combine the logic of this resolution with the previously adopted resolution "On the Political and Socioeconomic Situation in the RSFSR and Measures to Overcome the Crisis." Point one of this document states that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and its organs and the RSFSR Council of Ministers have not made full use of the powers granted to stabilize the political and socioeconomic situation in the republic, improve Russians' life, or find a way out of the crisis. A specific example can be cited on this score. We have adopted such important documents as the Law on Ownership and the Law on the Enterprise and Entrepreneurial Activity. But tell me, can there be denationalization without a law on privatization? There is no such law at the moment—we only recently created a group to prepare one. The questions must be resolved as a package, then there will be enough powers.

I must also mention the fact that the resolution on the redistribution of powers was adopted in flagrant breach of standing orders. In the first place, an attempt was made to adopt the whole resolution in one fell swoop. And afterward people voted for this major document without discussing and adopting each point individually.

As for the conflict situation which occurred in the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, here I can tell you this. Our main mistake in the past was that there was always like-mindedness in our leadership, which led us up a blind alley. I think that if we, the deputy chairmen, leaders of the chambers, and members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, express our opinion freely on all questions it will help us to find the only correct way out of the situation in which we now find ourselves.

I am often asked: What do I expect from the deputies commission formed at the congress to investigate the facts which I set out in my speech? I think that this commission should investigate not just what happened to my family and me personally but also the cases of persecution of Presidium members who signed the political statement as well as those deputies who expressed criticism of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet chairman.

As for the congress decision on the introduction of a presidency in the RSFSR, here my position remains unchanged. How can this question be phrased if the law on the presidency is not elaborated today and if there is no law on presidential election procedure. And the resolution which was adopted on this score must be assessed objectively. Take these lines, for example: A routine Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies is to be held on 21 May 1991 and as presidential election fixed for 12 June the same year. One cannot tackle the solution of such a serious question in haste.

Russian Foreign Minister Opposes Kurils Deal

LD1304214191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2047 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, has said that we should totally rule out the idea that there should be any buying or selling of the Kuril Islands between Japan and the Soviet Union. In an interview with our correspondent on the eve of the visit by the Soviet delegation headed by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, he stressed that this is above all a political and juridical issue. We must acknowledge the existence of the problem and begin talks involving active participation by Russia and taking account of public opinion among the people of Russia. While recognizing the problem of the security of our Far Eastern frontiers, Andrey Kozyrev nevertheless spoke out against the military aspects of Soviet-Japanese relations being placed to the fore.

The Russian minister noted that the visit to Japan by Russia's Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, which is under preparation, will give considerably more concrete form and depth to Soviet-Japanese ties.

We will broadcast the interview with the Russian Federation's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in full tomorrow.

Prokofyev Attends CPSU City Leaders Meeting

LD1404140491 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The most acute problems of the policy of the CPSU in the transitional period, the preparations for commemorating the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War, and the creation of the Soviet Guard [Sovetskaya Gvardiya] were discussed at a meeting of party secretaries of city committees of hero cities in Smolensk.

Party bodies from Volgograd, Odesa, Sevastopol, Kerch, Murmansk, Kiev, Leningrad, and Moscow responded to the invitation.

The exchange of opinions and experience of working in the contemporary conditions was interesting. Both the hosts and the guests noted the common nature of many problems facing the staff of the party apparatus today, the increasingly frequent departures from the CPSU, the passiveness of primary party organizations and cadres, and financial difficulties.

Prokofyev, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, and first secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU, took part in the meeting.

Leningrad Mayor on Topical Soviet Problems

AU1504085391 Vienna AZ in German 15 Apr 91 p 4

[Interview with Leningrad Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by Margaretha Kopeinig and Robert Misik in Vienna; date not given: "The People Have Woken Up"]

[Text] [AZ] Mr. Mayor, in the past you supported Mikhail Gorbachev....

[Sobchak] Yes, but now I am mostly a critic of Gorbachev, in particular regarding the position he has adopted over the past few months, this position of strength. He is trying to preserve the power of the CPSU at any price. What we need today is a dialogue of all political forces. Therefore, I support Yeltsin's proposal for a roundtable whose goal could be a coalition government.

[AZ] But this poses the problem of who will sit at this roundtable? There is no specific party system within the democratic opposition.

[Sobchak] This is perhaps the biggest problem of our democratic movement—that it does not consist of real parties. We are trying to change this. We want to form a Social Democratic Party out of the opposition.

[AZ] In Russia the ties between the striking miners and the democratic opposition are becoming stronger. Do you see a chance for a Russian Solidarity?

[Sobchak] The process is already underway, because new, independent trade unions have formed in our country, with young, dynamic leaders.

[AZ] In many places it is now demanded that Boris Yeltsin use his entire authority to call the miners back to work. What do you think of that?

[Sobchak] This is impossible. This no longer depends on Yeltsin. Many miners cannot feed their families anymore. Actually, they have no other choice but to continue their struggle. It is possible that the government will not be able to tackle this challenge. Strike committees are emerging everywhere now. Tomorrow there may be a strike committee at the Union level which might call for a nationwide uprising. This would paralyze the country.

[AZ] But Mikhail Gorbachev plans to issue a ban on strikes.

[Sobchak] He has already done so—without success. How does he want to stop the strikes? With the army,

with tanks? This would cause an explosion. The people have woken up. No power can order a person who knows freedom to give it up.

[AZ] How great is the danger of nationalism for democratization?

[Sobchak] Very great. Nationalism has already claimed many lives and caused enormous damage to the democratic movement. At the moment there is some sort of national romanticism in our country. People believe that if they follow national values, all problems can be solved. This belief is particularly strong in Lithuania, Georgia, and Moldova. Everywhere, people of one nationality are driven to persecute people of another nationality. All this does not solve one single problem. What is needed is to stop the internal unrest; otherwise we will not be able to make any progress.

[AZ] Do you approve the use of the army and the troops of the Interior Ministry to stem the conflicts?

[Sobchak] The conflicts have reached such a scope that the army is absolutely necessary. But I do not approve the use of the army in the way it is being used now. I think that an inter-republic army should be established, which would then be used like the UN troops to ensure human rights in conflict situations. If such a troop of "blue caps" existed, their use would no longer be seen as interference by the center.

Democratic Russia Applies To Hold Rally in Moscow

LD1404201191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The Democratic Russia movement has applied to the Executive Committee of Moscow City Soviet to hold a demonstration [manifestatsiya] and a rally in Red Square on 1 May. This has also been reported by the Russian Information Agency.

Khasbulatov on Ingush Republic Problem

LD1404212291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Report by Radio Rossii correspondent Melyanchikov on visit by Ruslan Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, to Chechen-Ingush Republic, including interview with Khasbulatov on 14 April—recorded]

[Text] For two days, Ruslan Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has been meeting with his constituents in Chechen-Ingush Republic. The central issue which was raised at all the meetings was that of the future of the Ingush people. This was also the subject of my conversations with Ruslan Imranovich in the intervals between the meetings. Well, what have you brought here for your constituents?

[Khasbulatov] I have, of course, told my constituents of my work, of the difficulties, and of all the hopes that we are cherishing now, primarily in the sphere of bringing our finance and economy into a more healthy state. The way our people live—it is indeed too bad! You see, the situation here is effectively the same as in other regions. Both in the capital and outside the capital, in various oblasts, krays, the problems are the same. But the situation here is further complicated by the fact that socioeconomic issues are mixed with ethnic ones. I have just met with representatives of the Ingush public. As you now, it is a very painful issue. Naturally, the Ingush people are striving to restore their autonomy. There are quite a few difficult contradictions and problems, and, as you have seen, I naturally tried to call for their common sense and calm. But at the same time, I firmly promised support in the matter of restoring Ingushetiya, so that it could really become a republic and develop as an independent republic with a status of its own, a national statehood of its own. In short, it has been a rather complex but to my mind sufficiently productive conversation on this issue.

Well, as you know, the meeting began at a large scientific-research institute. It continued in a large lecture room in an educational establishment: the Institute of Oil. So, as you see, I have had three large-scale meetings of this kind. I was very pleased, frankly speaking, by my meetings. I have not seen a single hostile face, although, as far as I know, there used to be many thousands of them. I have also received many hundreds of letters. So it seems that the people watch and understand our achievements, but even more they understand that we feel upset by our failures in the same way as they do.

[Melyanchikov] The issue of the Ingush people and of North Ossetia. You have mentioned that this may turn into another Nagorno-Karabakh, and an even more complex one. Is there any way to prevent this?

[Khasbulatov] Of course there is. I think that the adoption of a law on rehabilitated peoples will involve resolving a whole number of organizational and administrative issues. These resolutions will lead to the restoration of the republic. However, I naturally hope for understanding on the part of the comrades form North Ossetia. Actually, we in the Supreme Soviet do realize the urgency of resolving these issues. I hope, first of all, for a reasonable approach to resolving these problems.

[Melyanchikov] Well, I would like to hope that the conflict which has now been dragging for over 40 years will be finally resolved. Tonight, Ruslan Khasbulatov returned to Moscow.

Moscow Rayons Oppose Parallel Militia Structures

PM1504092491 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Apr 91 First Edition p 6

[Report by TASS correspondent: "Militia Boycott Rejected"]

[Text] Moscow—The question of "strict" measures regarding the present militia structures and plans to form

their own municipal militia were at the center of attention for the participants in a meeting between the leadership of [Moscow's] Leningradskiy Rayon Soviet of People's Deputies and its ispolkom [executive committee] and staffers of the rayon internal affairs administration.

The participants in the meeting came to the conclusion that the present work of the rayon internal affairs administration is satisfactory, and they see no need for parallel structures. They therefore do not intend to deprive the militia of its accustomed social benefits, wages, and place in the housing waiting line. These drastic measures regarding all the structures of the Moscow militia, which has now become a USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] main administration, were proposed at a Moscow City Soviet Presidium session.

These sanctions were not supported by the participants in similar meetings in the capital's Kalininskiy and Kuntsevskiy Rayons.

It is curious that the Moscow City Soviet standing commission on legality, law and order, and protection of citizens' rights, which has lost the opportunity to dictate its terms to all the Moscow militia structures and therefore decided to form its own municipal militia, issued a document a year ago clearly concluding that the formation of two parallel structures of internal affairs organs in the city was impermissible, as was the formation of special detachments made up of nonprofessionals.

Yeltsin Begins Kislovodsk Vacation 8 Apr

LD0804211191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Boris Yeltsin arrived in Kislovodsk today for a vacation. Our correspondent (Valeriy Kutz) reports that the inhabitants of Stavropol are welcoming the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and wishing him well in restoring his strength as quickly as possible, following the extremely intense work at the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Congress of People's Deputies.

Military Exercises Held Near Yeltsin's Dacha

LD1204201891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] As the Russian Information Agency has discovered from informed sources, during the night of 9-10 April, exercises by military units of the Taman division were held near the dachas of the Russian Supreme Soviet Council of Ministers and Presidium in the village of Arkhangelsk near Moscow. In the words of one of the soldiers, they were being trained in developing a method for combatting extremists. I will note that Boris Yeltsin, Ivan Silayev, and other leaders of the Russian Federation were resting at these dachas.

Western Republics

Belorussian Party Bureau Issues Strike Statement

PM1504083791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 91 Second Edition p 1

[Correspondents A. Simurov and A. Ulitenok report: "Square Seething: Strike Wave in Belorussia Continues"]

[Excerpts] Minsk, 10 Apr—The Belorussian capital remains tense. Numerous columns of workers from Minsk's enterprises came to Lenin Square this morning. It transpired at the rally that there are now 69 strike committees in the city. However, not all of them decided to go to the square. In particular, they did not support the idea for a general political strike at the Lenin Production Association. Students, too, reacted unenthusiastically to the city strike committee's appeals. Nonetheless, thousands and thousands of Minsk people assembled in front of Government House. [passage omitted]

The Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Press Service today published in the press a report on the Central Committee Bureau session held Monday. It stated its concern at the sharp exacerbation of the sociopolitical situation in the republic and recognized the need to examine it at an extraordinary Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee plenum.

Noting the fairness of the demands about the impermissibility of a sharp fall in living standards, the bureau expressed support for the efforts of the republic's government, which has been seeking additional opportunities to ensure the population's social protection. It was deemed necessary to continue the search for ways to improve people's material position.

The Central Committee Bureau appealed to party committees, organizations, Communists, and all working people to show profound understanding for the prevailing situation, to unite at this difficult time, to reject ambitions, to strengthen organization, and to stabilize the situation in each collective. Party organizations should show initiative in pooling the efforts of the administration, social organizations, and strike committees to get out of the crisis and organize conciliation committees at enterprises and soviets. The Central Committee Bureau stressed that we must rebuff those forces which, hiding their own political ambitions and desire for struggle behind the interests of the working class and manipulating it with demands, would like to destabilize the situation in the republic today, wreck civic harmony, and bring confrontation and violence into our life.

In the evening, when we were leaving the square, the confrontation was continuing.

Strikers, Government To Hold Talks

LD1204181291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1715 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Minsk, 12 Apr (TASS)—Nikolay Kostikov, representative of the Belorussian Council of Ministers, and the leadership of the Belorussian strike committees signed an agreement today on the consent of the Belorussian Government to hold negotiations with the strikers "on matters within the competence of the Council of Ministers." Earlier, the Minsk strike committee adopted a decision to suspend the strikes, which began on 3 April, for 10 days for talks with the republic's leadership.

However, despite the accord achieved on carrying out negotiations, the strikers have set about forming a republic-wide strike committee.

Today, a working meeting also took place in Minsk between strike committee representatives and Stanislav Shushkevich, first deputy chairman of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet. It achieved an accord to meet again at 0900 on 13 April, and a working group to hold talks was established.

According to preliminary assessments, the strike committees of more than 80 of the republic's enterprises share the idea of carrying out a Belorussia-wide strike. However, many plants do not intend to strike, in particular the Minsk refrigerator plant. The management of this enterprise is finding ways of resolving acute social problems.

At the moment, work is being carried out to estimate losses from strikes. The Belorussian State Committee for Statistics has stated that as a result of work stoppages on 3, 4, 10, and 11 April, a shortfall has occurred in production in the republic of more than 50 million rubles [R], R10 million profit was lost, and wage funds were impoverished by R12 million.

It has become known that tomorrow a Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum will be held. On the agenda is the question "on the current political moment."

Strike Committee Formed; Head Appointed

LD1304192191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1758 GMT 13 Apr 91

[TASS correspondent Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk, 13 Apr—"The talks between representatives of the Minsk strike committee and the Supreme Soviet of Belorussia proceeded in an atmosphere of goodwill," Aleksandr Galkevich, head of the strikers' news service, told a TASS correspondent.

At today's talks, which lasted for almost three hours, the issue of summoning an emergency session of the Belorussian Parliament was at the center of the discussion. The strike committee insists that it open no later than 16 April. According to Stanislav Shushkevich, deputy chairman of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet, this date is unrealistic, since none of the documents required are ready. The sides reached an agreement on resuming the talks on Monday.

An organizational meeting also took place today on setting up a strike committee of all of Belorussia. Workers from Orsha, Borisov, Solegorsk, and Gomel—the towns which already have their town strike committees—took part in the meeting, as well as representatives of eight more towns where strike committees only exist at individual enterprises. After five hours of work, a Belorussian strike committee was established. Mikhail Sobol, an activist of the workers' union, who is well known in the republic, was elected head of the committee.

Economic Damage Figures Cited

PM1204162991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

["Direct Line" report by Mikhail Shimanskiy: "Talks Start With Strike Committee"]

[Text] Minsk—On the morning of 12 April, talks began at the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet with representatives of the Minsk strike committee.

The talks were conducted by S. Shushkevich, first deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet. The strike committee group is headed by Belorussian SSR People's Deputy S. Antonchik, cochairman of the strike committee.

So the rallies in Minsk have ended and the strike has been suspended—so said the strike movement leaders live on television.

But it must not be thought that the tension will immediately abate with the signing of the agreement on talks. On the morning of 12 April, I visited the city strike committee. The opinion there was: If the government and Supreme Soviet Presidium try to wreck the talks we will take immediate steps. What they mean is strikes. Although the strike committee is very concerned about maintaining labor discipline at enterprises at the moment.

A routine news conference was held at the Belorussian Council of Ministers.

Journalists were presented with some figures on the losses as a result of the strikes. According to preliminary data obtained from enterprises on 3, 4, 10, and 11 April, in the republic as a whole output worth more than 50 million rubles [R] was lost. This includes losses of approximately R10 million in profits and R12 million in contributions to wage funds.

Belorussian Communists Urge Plenum on Crisis

LD1304162191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] A plenum of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee was held in Minsk today. A report on the political situation in the republic and the position of the Belorussian Communist Party was delivered by Malofeyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee. Malofeyev assessed the April events. These arose from the extremely complex situation that the country and the republic have found themselves in during recent years.

The rapporteur proposed support for the views of a number of party organizations that believe that a special CPSU Central Committee plenum should be held. The task of the plenum would be to decide on practical steps to stabilize society and extricate it from the crisis. He stressed that the country cannot be led out of the impasse without the active involvement of the Communist Party.

The plenum adopted an appeal to the people of Belorussia and also a statement by the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee on the current political situation. In them the participants in the plenum express support for labor collectives, which advocate a moratorium on strikes, meetings, and other political actions that destabilize the situation in society.

Ukraine Seminar Appeals to Central Committee

LD1404162491 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] A republican conference and seminar of first secretaries of city committees and rayon committees of the Ukraine Communist Party has taken place in Kiev.

Its participants sent an appeal to the CPSU Central Committee expressing deep concern regarding the dangerous development of events in the country. The transformations begun on the initiative of the party are being carried out inconsistently, without a clear and precise program, often by trial and error, and are not yielding the results the people need. The party itself, the guarantor of renewal, is being subjected to unbridled bating and slighting. All of this has placed in jeopardy the socialist gains of the Soviet people, the future, and also the very existence of our great multinational socialist homeland. The inaction in these conditions of the supreme bodies of state power and the contemplative position of the CPSU Central Committee are inadmissible, the appeal by Communists of the Ukraine to the CPSU Central Committee says.

Ukraine Deputy Khmara Rearrested in Donetsk

LD1304164991 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Today people's deputy Stepan Khmara arrived in Donetsk by plane for a meeting with miners. However, it did not take place. Dmytro Ponamarchuk, editor of Radio Kiev, has carried out an investigation as to what happend to Stepan Khmara.

[Ponamarchuk] I will remind you that Stepan Khmara was released from custody on 5 april. [passage omitted] Having returned to Kiev he visited the Supreme Court and this morning he arrived in Donetsk by plane. He was detained at the airport by representatives of the law enforcement organs.

He told me the day before that he intended to deliver a speech to miners who put his release from custody forward as one of the demands of their strike. However, representatives of the strike committees of Donestsk and members of the oblast organization of the Ukrainian Repubican Party waited in vain for the deputy chairman of this party in the airport building. Stepan Khmara's defenders in Kiev and leaders of the Ukrainian Republican Party could not give any explanations regarding the grounds for his arrest.

Here is how Oleksandr Fedchenko, chairman of the court session in connection with the court case of Stepan Khmara and the other six defendents and member of the Supreme Court, explained this:

[Begin recording] After the materials of the court case regarding Khmara, Berezanskyy, and other defendants were examined and checked, this case was accepted, taking into account its complexity and importance, according to the resolution of 5 April, 1991 by the Ukraine SSR [UKSSR] Supreme Court's administrative sitting. In addition, and taking into account the petition by many UKSSR Supreme Soviet deputies and public organizations about changing the precautionary measure applied to Khmara, in which his age and state of health were described in particular, the court changed the precautionary measure, released him from custody, and put him under the personal surety of Kozyarskyy, people's deputy of the UKSSR Supreme Soviet, and Soldat, deputy of Lvov Oblast Soviet, who gave their consent.

On the same day, 5 April, Khmara was released. Unfortunately, official information was received by the court that on 10 and 11 April, 1991, immediately after his release Khmara started perpetrating illegal actions. He organized and participated many times in unauthorized meetings in the cities of the republic, where he used expressions directed at creating a negative attitude among the public toward the trial, and put pressure on the court and the chairman, demanding his home address and telephone number during his visit to the court. Taking into account that these circumstances would impede a normal hearing of the case at a sitting of the court, a meeting was held by the Supreme Court of republic on 12 April this year, where the circumstances which have been pointed out were discussed and a decision made about the precautionary measure toward Khmara to take him into custody again. [end recording]

[Ponamarchuk] The defenders of Stepan Khmara were given a promise by the Supreme Court that they would

be aquainted with the motives for this decision in detail on Monday, 15 April. Meanwhile, it is planned to hold a meeting in defense of Stepan Khmara and the other prisoners on 14 April in Kiev. The meeting was authorized as it was planned in advance, and Stepan Khmara himself was going to speak there. In the meantime a spontaneous meeting sprang up in Donetsk today. Those taking part in it demanded the release of the people's deputy.

Moldova Formulates Terms for Army Draft

LD1204191591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1835 GMT 12 Apr 91

[By Anatoliy Golya and Aleksandr Tanas, correspondents for MOLDOVA-PRESS and TASS]

[Text] Kishinev, 12 Apr—This year the Soviet Army draft will be carried out according to the laws of the republic, Colonel Nikolay Kirtoake, director of the Moldova State Department for Military Issues, told the MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondents.

This means that the young men refusing to serve in the USSR Armed Forces cannot be prosecuted, because "the appropriate legislative act does not have judicial power on Moldovan territory".

The colonel thinks it is quite realistic to meet the needs of these young men. Out of the total number of 10,000 men due for call-up, he said, nearly 2,500 wish to serve outside Moldova. Another 4,500 could serve in the Union Armed Forces on the territory of the republic, and 3,000 will be called up to create the special corps of carabineri to help the Moldova police, he suggested.

The director general of the department for military issues stressed that a law "on alternative military service" could solve many problems. Its draft has already been elaborated and offered for the agenda at the Moldova Supreme Soviet session, which is opening in the middle of May.

Moldova To Provide Work for Military Deserters

LD1104165291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The Government of Molodva Soviet Socialist Republic has adopted a decision which authorizes the department for military issues, the military commissariat of the republic, and local soviets of people's deputies to ensure necessary conditions for finding jobs for regular servicemen who have left the service without official permission. A reservation was made that they should engage in socially useful work until the term of their service expires. The same document calls on young people drafted from the republic not to leave military units without valid cause.

Caucasus

Supreme Soviet Elects Gamsakhurdia President

Vote Unanimous

LD1404114891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tbilisi, April 14 (TASS)—SAKINFORM-TASS correspondent Eduard Ediberidze:

Fifty-two year-old Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, has been elected as president of that republic. The participants of the extraordinary sitting of the first session held here today by the Georgian parliament unanimously voted for his candidacy.

The parliamentarians also adopted a law on the elections of the president—a law ruling that on 26 May this year presidential general elections will be held by secret ballot on the basis of equal and direct voting rights.

Constitutional Changes Discussed

AU1404125491 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 0940 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Here is a special news broadcast. Today, the latest extraordinary meeting of the first convocation of the first session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia began its work.

At the morning session, Mr. Akaki Asatiani, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet delivered a speech on the creation of the post of president of the Republic of Georgia.

Mr. Johni Khetsuriani, minister of justice of the Republic of Georgia, delivered a speech on the draft law on the creation of the post of president of the Republic of Georgia and, in connection with this, on the introduction of changes and amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Georgia.

The report was followed by a debate after which the deputies unanimously adopted the Law on the Creation of the Post of President of the Republic of Georgia and, in relation with this, on the Introduction of Changes and Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Georgia.

On the proposal of Mr. Akaki Asatiani, first deputy chairman of the Republic of Georgia, the session unanimously elected Mr. Zviad Gamsakhurdia as president of the Republic of Georgia. The session adopted a resolution on this question. The session is continuing its work.

Gamsakhurdia Protests Burned Churches

AU1204161191 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Message to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev from Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet, issued in Tbilisi on 12 April]

[Text] To USSR President Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev:

I would like to inform you that on 11 April, in the village of Dvani, in Kareli Rayon, military servicemen belonging to the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops burned down two churches, those of St. George and the Holy Trinity, that are most important monuments of Georgian culture.

Throughout our long suffering history, Georgia has seen many conquerors and much barbarism, but neither the Cossacks nor the Mongols nor the Persians perpetrated such acts of vandalism. This is how they are punishing us for declaring the restoration of our independence.

We demand that the Soviet soldiers halt their violence and outrageous behavior toward the sovereign territory of the Republic of Georgia, and we remind you that this will bring nothing but disgrace and shame to you.

[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia
Tbilisi, 12 April 1991

Gamsakhurdia Notes Economic Effect of Strike

LD1404173291 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi April 14 TASS—More than 100,000 tonnes of various cargo fail to arrive in Georgia daily as a result of the transport workers' strike called on the initiative of the ruling political bloc "Roundtable-Free Georgia."

Workers at some enterprises subordinated directly to the centre have joined the strike, causing havoc in supplies to hundreds of clients in other republics.

The transportation blockade from within is selective in character, dockers at the ports of Batumi and Poti, for instance, handle cargoes addressed to Georgia and ignore those intended for other republics. The sum of fines to be paid in hard currency to foreign shipping companies for the delay in loading is growing.

The country will also have to pay for delaying export supplies of coal and oil products through the ports of Sukhumi and Poti.

"This is a major blow to the economy of the Soviet country," Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia admitted in his address to a news conference here today. Incidentally, Gamsakhurdia is a spokesman for the political bloc "Roundtable-Free Georgia".

Reportage on Effects of Georgian Rail Strike

Passenger Trains Canceled

PM1204160091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by S. Aleksandrov and V. Yuzbashev: "Georgia: Ports and Railroads at a Standstill"]

[Text] A political strike is under way at Georgia's ports, N. Tsakh, USSR deputy minister of the maritime fleet, told the editorial office.

Some 30 carloads of corn have been dispatched from Batumi, and 20 carloads of wheat from Poti. Some 12,500 tonnes of grain are still being held on an Indian ship at the Poti Wharf, and there are hopes that it will be unloaded.

But the dockers have refused to unload grain destined for Azerbaijan and Armenia. A Yugoslav ship carrying 28,000 tonnes of wheat will apparently be sent to Novorossiysk, and the cargo will be sent to its destinations from there by a roundabout route, situation permitting.

Tobacco for Georgia is also being unloaded from the river ship Andrey Upit, but a ship from the FRG carrying aluminum is standing at Batumi and has not been unloaded.

The USSR Ministry of Railways has not yet given a figure for the damage already inflicted by the Georgian rail strike.

As G. Popov, chief of the Ministry of Railways Operations Department, told IZVESTIYA, the main task now is to stop loading trains destined for Georgia and Armenia because at present, there is no hope of their reaching their destinations. To prevent an unthinkable pileup of trains at the Georgian border, the Ministry of Railways has also been forced to cancel passenger trains, which only a few days ago were going to Tbilisi, Tskhaltubo, Batumi, Sukhumi, Yerevan....

According to Georgiy Popov, Georgia is currently not accepting or sending so much as a single car. On the North Caucasian and Azerbaijan railroads about 100 trains carrying various cargoes for Yerevan, Tbilisi, and even Iran have already been abandoned as a result. They are trying as far as possible to distribute the trains evenly in the region of Tuapse, Krasnodar, Makhachkala, Mineralnyye Vody, Nakhichevan, Baku, Gyandzha, and other sectors of the main lines.

The Ministry of Railroads is trying to find a solution to the developing situation, but as yet sees no particularly cheerful prospect here, since in the near future they are hardly likely to be able to get even a single train through Georgian territory, to which a significant proportion of railroad shipments within the Union are "tied."

Regarding the passengers whom the strike caught en route, the chief of the Ministry of Railways Operations Department told us: Some of them are being taken to their destinations by bus, by maritime transport, and by car. Some, however, prefer to stay on the trains. They are hoping to sit out the strike where they are, on the rails.

Lack of Sovereignty Protested

AU1204134491 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 0400 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] By violating the Constitution of the Republic of Georgia, the Kremlin rulers under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev are increasing their own military power in Samachablo [South Ossetia] and this is further aggravating the already acute situation there.

As a mark of protest against the current intervention of the USSR in the internal affairs of sovereign Georgia, Georgia's railway workers have begun a strike. Mamuli Kiknadze, head of the Transcaucasian Railway [word indistinct] stated: On 11 April, trains are running according to schedule inside Georgia; there are no trains leaving the republic either in the direction of Rostov or Baku and none are entering the republic. The aim of our strike is to secure the withdrawal of the troops from Samachablo.

As early as yesterday morning, the USSR Ministry of Railways forbade all its departments from sending all produce of the national economy to Georgia. It also gave them the right to unload the wagons that are full of goods destined for Georgia at any railway station on the frontier with Georgia.

The strike is still continuing. Normal conditions have been created for passengers at each railway station in the republic.

Sixty Freight Trains Stranded

LD1204161291 Moscow TASS in English 1539 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Sixty freight trains bound for Georgia and Armenia have been held up by the Georgian leadership's decision on Wednesday to suspend rail and other transportation services in and out of the Transcaucasian Republic, the national government's press department said today.

It also reported delays and even the cancellation of a number of passenger trains for the same reason, as well as stoppages at Georgian seaports.

The 3,000-odd stranded wagons are loaded with food, including perishables and grain, oil products, coal, medicines, industrial raw materials, and other cargo. Most of the freight is past its delivery deadlines.

Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia turned down the Federal Railway Ministry's request to rescind the decision to put local railways temporarily out of operation.

This is why it was decided, in order to prevent the rotting, spoiling, and loss of food and other freight in the stranded trains, to market them locally.

The ministry also suspended cargo shipments to Georgia.

The situation at Georgian seaports is no less difficult.

This morning, there were five transports at Batumi and nine others with grain, alumina, tobacco and other cargo at Poti. Grain and tobacco meant for Georgia were being unloaded, while freight destined for Russia and Tajikistan was neglected.

Oil products were not being loaded for export. Foreign ships, including those with food for Armenia and Azerbaijan, were left unattended.

The Federal Ministry of Merchant Marine had to redirect ships from Georgian ports elsewhere on the Black Sea coast.

The government's press department said that the Georgian leadership's actions are not only jeopardising vital supplies to the Transcaucasian Republic itself but also destabilising the social and economic situation elsewhere in the country.

Reports Detail Situation in South Ossetia

State of Emergency Extended

LD1304123191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] As has just been reported from Tbilisi, the Georgian Supreme Soviet Presidium has prolonged the state of emergency in Tskhinvali until 12 May. It was introduced on 19 December last year and covered not only the administrative center abolished by the republic parliament of the South Ossetian Autonomous Republic, but also Dzhavskiy Rayon.

Attacks by 'Extremists' Continue

AU1304161691 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 1300 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The press center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Georgia has reported that, during the night of 13 April, there was again sporadic shooting in Tskhinvali and its surrounding areas. It is believed that attacks between opposing groups of Ossetian extremists are again continuing.

This morning, unidentified individuals fired on a Zhiguli light automobile containing several military servicemen belonging to the internal troops as it was entering Tskhinvali. The soldiers returned fire and later arrested the attackers. They turned out to be Ossetian extremists. Two pistols and a rifle were confiscated from them. A little later, the headquarters of the Georgian

militia at the entrance to Tskhinvali was fired upon. The military arrested an Ossetian national who was carrying a pistol.

The new commander of the town of Tskhinvali, militia Colonel Shakro (?Dzints'k'aladze) had the following to say about this fact: The attack on the military had a more provocative aim. It occurred close to our headquarters so that the military would think that Georgians were firing at them. This time, the provocation did not work. In addition, I can inform you that, of the 22 Georgian militia detained by units of internal troops on 10 April, 11 have been released, but the remainder are still being detained. These include five from the department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Qvareli Rayon, four from the department in (?Dedoplis) Ts'qaro Rayon, and two [militia] workers from the department in Rustavi.

Explosion Cuts Power Supply

PM1404200591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

[Valeriy Oliyanchuk report: "Explosion at the Nakhar Pass"]

[Text] Stavropol—Criminal action on the Bolshoy Kavkaz has cut off the electricity supply to Georgia down the high-altitude electricity line No. 500 from the Stavropol GRES [state regional electric power station].

At 0305 hours [date not specified] an automatic system began operating on the electricity line's main control desk, signaling a break in the cable and an obstruction to the flow of current. This happened 20km below the Nakhar Pass. Power engineering workers' first assumption was that an avalanche had struck, this sometimes happens in the mountains in the spring. But an inspection of the area from a helicopter and later of the snowy rock face made them change their opinion. A main support weighing 60 tonnes had been blown up—fragments of a safety fuse and a detonator, along with the remains of a timing device, were found and everything around was covered with black soot. The support damaged the neighboring mast and wires were torn to shreds as it fell. "It is up to the investigation to ascertain the culprits," I. Lazarenko, chief of the "Yugenergo" Territorial Administration, said. "I can only share my personal hypotheses with you. I think that the explosion was caused by the bloody conflict in South Ossetia. Our specialists are laying power lines to that republic and those lines have been cut by guerrillas—and not without risk to themselves."

There has been extremely palpable damage—the electricity supply to the republic was cut at a stroke by a factor of 2.5-3 percent.

Troop Withdrawal Reported

LD1204152991 Berlin ADN in German 1507 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Moscow (ADN)—Moscow has obviously started to withdraw the additional troops sent to the Georgian crisis region of South Ossetia. Quoting the Foreign Ministry in Tbilisi, a spokesman for the Georgian news agency SAKINFORM has told ADN that 30 armored personnel carriers today left Tskhinvali, the provincial capital. In Tbilisi it is thought possible that further units will return to their permanent deployment areas during the next few days. [passage omitted]

Official Meets Press on Situation

LD1304155291 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT 13 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 13 TASS—Units of USSR Interior Ministry troops set about disarming unlawful Georgian and Ossetian groups on the territory of South Ossetia which is part of the Republic of Georgia, Boris Gromov, USSR first deputy minister of the interior, told journalists at the press centre of the emergency committee under the authority of the North Ossetian parliament president.

General Gromov, who had commanded the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, made a trip to South Ossetia where he familiarised himself with the situation in the region and with the actions of the Interior Ministry troops on the territory of South Ossetia.

Gromov met with the leadership of North Ossetia—parliament President Akhsarbek Galasov and Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurov—in Vladikavkaz and informed them of the situation in Transcaucasia.

Speaking about the extremely tense situation in South Ossetia, Gromov categorically rejected assertions being spread by Georgian media about alleged instances of armed clashes between the Ossetian population of the region and the military.

According to the North Ossetian Interior Ministry, more than 300 units of firearms, mainly rifles, and one armoured personnel carrier with grenades and explosives were withdrawn from Georgian militants in Kehvi and Tamarasheni villages of Tskhinvali District as a result of operations over the past 24 hours.

Two reconnaissance vehicles, more than 100 guns, grenades, cartridges and radio stations were withdrawn from unlawful armed groups during operations in Znauri District.

Forty-three people were detained, one militant was killed and two wounded.

Near Erdvi village of Tskhinvali District, militants tried to shoot down a military helicopter with journalists on board from an anti-aircraft missile launcher.

As a result of two-hour-long combat actions, the military detained 16 militants. Apart from firearms, explosives and blaster fuse were seized.

And still, the first signs of the stabilisation of the situation have appeared in the life of besieged Tskhinvali. No shooting is heard in the city for the third day. Only from the direction of Nikozi village in the suburban zone, Georgian militants periodically open fire.

Food, which has been brought from North Ossetia and Germany is being distributed in the city. Refugees, families with many children, the sick and the aged are the first to receive food. The graduating classes in four schools of Tskhinvali have resumed studies.

Bus services along central streets have resumed their operation, and food shops have reopened. Residents of the city began to remove obstructions and roadblocks on the streets.

Citizens Address Gorbachev, Others

AU1304163791 Tbilisi Domestic Serice in Georgian 0200 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Address by the Georgian population of Shida Kartli, former South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast, to Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union; Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation; and Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia, in Tbilisi on 12 April]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Soviet Union are conducting a wholly unjustifiable undeclared war against the Republic of Georgia on the territory of Shida Kartli. A new large contingent of USSR Armed Forces was brought into the region after the 31 March referendum in Georgia and after representatives of up to 100 nationalities living in Georgia together with the Georgian population unanimously supported the restoration of Georgia's independence. Therefore, the introduction of armed forces into the territory of Shida Kartli must be viewed as war against Georgia.

Up to now, dozens of Georgians have been killed by Ossetian bandits, who are directly aided by the Soviet Army and who are armed with military weapons. This number includes children, elderly, and women. Many vandalic and fascist murders have been committed, and there have been cases of torture of Georgians that are indescribable and unprecedented in the world. By its very consequences, this must be viewed as genocide against Georgians on their own territory committed by Ossetian bandits with the direct help and participation of the Soviet Army.

Proceeding from the extremely alarming situation that has been created, the Georgian population of Shida Kartli addresses you:

1. to immediately withdraw from the territory of Shida Karli both units of USSR internal troops and combined units that have been deployed in the Tskhinvali area;

2. to restore the judicature and the administration of the Republic of Georgia in Shida Kartli;

3. to give the Georgian militia responsibility for guaranteeing order on the territory;

4. to safeguard the return of Georgian refugees to their own places of residence and to restore their social conditions and their citizens' rights;

5. to implement the official agreement concluded between Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, and Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia;

6. to punish those individuals who have contributed toward inflaming the ethnic conflict in Shida Kartli; to expose all those illegal and inhuman leaders of the all-Union and local government who have artificially created an ethnic conflict and [carried out] the genocide of the Georgians on Georgian land; to punish with total severity all known criminals; to bring to account the (?eight) individuals who have vandalized churches and cultural and historical monuments.

We unite ourselves with the Roundtable—a Free Georgia strike movement that is protesting against the center and the situation that has been created by it in Shida Kartli.

We ask the leadership of the Republic of Georgia to immediately establish a parliamentary council in connection with the crisis in Shida Karli that will guarantee the implementation of military action and be responsible before the Georgian people and the country.

We call upon all international and all-Union organs and organizations to put a halt to the genocide of Georgians in Georgia and to guarantee the security of the Georgian population blockaded on the territory of Shida Kartli.

On the basis of the requirements of international law, [we call on you] to make the leadership of the Soviet Union bear full responsibility for all manner of aggression committed against its own people.

The address was adopted at a meeting of the Georgian population of Shida Kartli in Tbilisi on 12 April this year.

Situation Stabilizing

LD1404170191 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 14 TASS—The situation in South Ossetia began to stabilize in the past 24 hours. A spokesman for the press centre of the extraordinary committee under the chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet told TASS that in pursuance of the order from the USSR Cabinet of Ministers, units of the USSR Interior Ministry troops are continuing the operation to

disarm unlawful groups of militants on regional territory. The operation has already partially removed the food blockade of Tskhinvali and started the regular transport movement to bring food, medicines and fuel into Tskhinvali along the Java-Tskhinvali highway.

Protected by combat machinery, the engineering unit of the Soviet interior troops continue removing roadblocks and restore exploded bridges on roads of approach. This enables direct delivery of consumer goods to Tskhinvali and the removal of the economic siege which has kept the city's industrial enterprises, transport and communal services out of operation for nearly four months.

According to the South Ossetian Interior Ministry, nearly 100 Georgians and Ossetians were detained in the Tskhinvali, Znauri and Java districts and many firearms, factory and home-made grenades, explosives, thousands of rounds of ammunition and portable radio transmitters have been seized. In addition, interior troops confiscated two hail-combatting guns and two armoured vehicles.

For five days already, no shooting has been heard in Tskhinvali, where the Georgian Parliament decided to prolong the state of emergency until May 12.

But peaceful life is slow to resume in the besieged city. No electricity has been supplied to the city from the unified power grid of Georgia for more than a week. Near the village of Sveri militants exploded the main gas pipeline which supplied fuel to Tskhinvali. Water supply to houses is highly irregular.

Nearly 300 gravely wounded people are now awaiting surgery in the regional hospital. Some of them have been transported by ambulances to Vladikavkaz.

As additional interior troops keep arriving in the region helping to disarm and disband unlawful groups of militants on both sides, refugees, numbering more than 20,000, increasingly often turn to the military asking for help to return to their homes in order to begin spring work in the fields, gardens and vineyards.

The first group of refugees from South Ossetia left the Ardonskiy district of North Ossetia for South Ossetian villages today. Refugees who are now housed in Vladikavkaz, the Kirov and Prigorodny districts of North Ossetia are also ready to leave for home.

Georgian Media Allegedly Distort Troops' Role

LD1304094991 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Recently, the media of the Republic of Georgia have been spreading information which distorts the activities of the internal troops in South Ossetia on protecting the security and constitutional rights of the population. The Political Directorate of the internal troops reports that these verbal fabrications are directed at compromising the efforts of the troop units of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry on ensuring the normalization of the situation in South Ossetia and disorientation of public opinion against servicemen of the internal troops who are risking their lives every day. However, these attempts are doomed to failure. The people will understand the true purposes of the organizers of these publications. As for the troops, they are continuing to protect law and order in the name of interests of Soviet people.

Interior Ministry Supports Troops

LD1204191791 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Political Department of the USSR Interior Ministry troops circulated a statement here today, which refutes allegations of the Georgian mass media about "lawless actions" of the troops in South Ossetia. It is worth recalling that they were moved there for preventing bloody clashes between Ossetians and Georgians, which began after the Georgian parliament ended South Ossetia's autonomy in violation of the Soviet Constitution.

The Political Department described as "a malicious lie" the assertions of the Georgian press about "a chauvinistic attitude" of Interior Ministry soldiers to the Georgian people, about some pogroms, plunder and the burning of churches. "Nothing like that took place in real life," the statement stressed.

"The troops continue to fulfil their duty honestly and protect law and order in the interests of all Soviet people irrespective of their nationality," the statement said.

Khoshtaria Urges West To Recognize Independence

AU1304134791 Paris AFP in English 0808 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Paris, April 13 (AFP)—The West should recognise the independence of Georgia because the Soviet Union will "collapse" sooner or later, Georgian Foreign Minister Georgiy Khoshtaria said in an interview here with AFP.

Mr. Khoshtaria, who is on a weeklong working visit to France, said it was "in the interests" of Western governments to "recognise the independence of the Republic of Georgia because sooner or later the Soviet Union, which in fact is not a union but an empire, is bound to collapse."

The visit of Mr. Khoshtaria comes less than a week after an overwhelming majority of Georgians voted in favour of independence in a referendum. The Georgian minister has meetings lined up with French politicians and diplomats and officials from other European countries in Strasbourg.

Mr. Khoshtaria said Western leaders "should not worry about supporting Georgian independence. Georgia can

survive alone. It will not be a beggar or a dicatorship. Moreover, we are the most radically anti-communist of all the republics and the only one where the communists have ceased to be a representative force since the elections of October 1990."

He said Georgia had been "annexed and occupied." This had happened twice in 1801 and in 1921 "after it had been independent for three years and recognised as such by several Western states and in 1920 by the Soviet Union itself.

"The agreement was broken in 1921 and Georgia was invaded but it never signed any capitulation. Its claim to independence is thus legitimate."

Mr. Khoshtaria said Georgia's decision to declare independence was prompted by Moscow's "aggressive policy" concerning the formerly autonomous region of South Ossetia. (In this region of northern Georgia inhabited mainly by the Osset ethnic minority, the Ossets are fiercely opposed to independence as part of Georgia and instead want their territory to be merged with North Ossetia which belongs to Russia.)

The Georgian minister said Moscow had sent troops to South Ossetia following ethnic clashes, in which officially 100 people have died since January.

He said the troops "without even informing the Georgian government, disarmed the militia (the Georgian police) leaving native Georgians powerless to defend themselves against Ossetian threats."

He said Moscow was "bent on preserving its power through violence by whipping up unrest by national minorities, following the same logic as in Karabakh (an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan), in the Baltics or in Moldova. Georgia is particularly vulnerable to this kind of operation because it has 80 different national minorities."

However Mr. Khoshtaria said that in the April 9 referendum on independence, even "the national minorities voted in favour of independence".

He said Georgia was "ready to recognise the cultural rights of the Ossets according to international law" but refused to "allow them political autonomy because their real homeland is in the northern part of the Caucasus".

"To recognise their political autonomy would be like Britain giving autonomy to its Indian minorities or for the Swedes to grant autonomy to the Finnish minority," he said.

Georgia Proposes Talks on Independence Issue

AU1304132891 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, April 13 (AFP)—Georgia's nationalist leaders have invited Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to begin talks with them to "establish good neighbourly ties between our two states", INTERFAX independent news agency reported Saturday [13 April].

The talks offer came less than a week after Georgia proclaimed its independence unilaterally from the Soviet Union.

"To delay these negotiations or to try to settle pending issues by force, will only aggravate a situation already sufficiently tense and lead to unpredictable consequences," the Georgian leadership warned in a cable to the Kremlin.

Georgian Kurds Protest Policy on Aiding Refugees

LD1404130191 Hamburg DPA in German 1214 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Apr (DPA)—Around 5,000 Kurds today demonstrated in support of their compatriots in Iraq in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi. The demonstrators criticized the West's policy, which left the Kurds in the lurch. At the same time, the demonstrators condemned the Soviet leadership, which had so far taken no steps to improve the situation of the Kurds in Iraq. Currently, around 30,000 Kurds live in Georgia. More than 120,000 Kurds live in the Soviet Union.

Central Asia

Kyrgyz Supreme Soviet Opens at 'Difficult Time'

LD1504082791 Moscow TASS in English 0804 GMT 15 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek April 15 TASS—The fourth session of the Kyrgyz Supreme Soviet (Parliament) opened in the Kyrgyz capital today. It will discuss a draft treaty for the union of sovereign republics, a draft law on employment, a land code and a project for land reform.

The Kyrgyz Parliament is meeting at a difficult time. At a meeting with the Cabinet of Minister a few days ago, the republic's President Askar Akayev said that the republic is on the brink of a political explosion.

The output of basic foodstuffs has decreased, absolute volumes of overall output have dropped. Spare parts for agriculture are in short supply, and the spring field work is about to begin. Only some 80 per cent of the farming machinery is operational. Although there are more than 140,000 unemployed in the republic, there is a shortage of skilled mechanics, zoo technicians and other specialists in rural areas.

Leading Kyrgyz Party Posts Uncontested

PM1004092991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 91 Second Edition p 2

[PRAVDA correspondent Yu. Razgulyayev's report under the "Official" rubric: "Plenum Held"]

[Text] Bishkek—The Communist Party of Kyrgyzstan Central Committee Bureau was almost entirely replaced at a plenum held here 6 April. A. Masaliyev, first secretary of the Central Committee, whose activities had been subject to strong criticism from both communists and other sociopolitical forces in the republic, tendered his resignation. His place was taken by Dzh. Amanbayev, first secretary of the Issyk-Kul party obkom [oblast committee], who beat the other candidate—A. Dzhumagulov, former chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Unfortunately, the elections of three other Central Committee secretaries were uncontested and were decided by open ballot. The contenders for these high posts were not even asked to read out their intended programs. Everything was decided in a matter of minutes by a card vote.

A. Akayev, president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, gave an address at the plenum and called on communists to be more active in reforming the party and more resolute in following the path of cooperation with all the republic's healthy forces.

Kyrgyzstan Party Leadership Changes Outlined

91US0432A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 9 Apr 91 p 2

[Article by SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent L. Kalashnikov: "A Change of Leaders"]

[Text] Bishkek—**At a plenum of the Kyrgyztan Communist Party Central Committee that took place last Saturday four of the five secretaries of the Central Committee were released from the posts they occupied, including A.M. Masaliyev, first secretary and member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.**

What happened? Just what had to happen. Dejection and confusion had settled into the corridors and offices of the Central Committee back in late fall last year when A.M. Masaliyev lost the post of president, which was introduced in Kyrgyzstan, to the young and energetic academician, A.A. Akayev, in a heated struggle at Supreme Soviet session. The despondency grew at an alarming pace. It was predictable. Not all, of course, but an overwhelming majority of the leaders of the republic's Communist Party and the Central Committee secretaries, raised on the administrative managerial cudgel, were unable to change with the new conditions. Despite insistent demands from the lower party organizations and the rank-and-file communists, who called upon their Central Committee and their leaders to free themselves finally from the shock and find some confidence, the situation did not improve. The Central Committee lost influence in the labor collectives. The self-esteem of individual leaders of the Central Committee was also stung by the fact that now the personnel question, that mighty weapon of power, was being decided by the president. Instead of meeting the new demands and confidently leading the party ship to meet the changes of the day, there was complete confusion on the captain's deck. N.M. Chepelev, second secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party, jumped overboard: He headed for home in Moscow.

A.N. Girenko, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the capital of Kyrgyzstan and spoke at the plenum. He described the sociopolitical situation in the country and touched on the problem of unity, consolidation of forces, and the need in the present situation for a change of leaders in the Central Committee of the republic party organization. A.M. Masaliyev then spoke and said he had written a statement asking the plenum to release him from his post. With only one vote against, the plenum adopted the corresponding ruling.

Now the members of the Central Committee had to perform the main task of the agenda: to elect a leader of the republic party organization. A. Zhunusov, secretary for rural matters and the sole remaining Central Committee secretary, reported the results of a great discussion in the republic party organizations concerning candidates for the post of first secretary of the Central Committee. Six candidates were named. The plenum narrowed the choice to two: D.B. Amanbayev, first secretary of the Issyk-Kul Oblast Party Obkom [oblast committee] and chairman of the oblast soviet, and A.D. Dzhumagulov, former chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers. They were put on a list for a secret vote. Dzhumgalbek Beksultanovich Amanbayev was elected first secretary of the Central Committee.

By education, D.B. Amanbayev, the new first secretary of the Kyrgyzstan Communist Party Central Committee, is a livestock specialist and scholar. He is a candidate of sciences and is 46 years old. A. Sulaymankulov, V.I. Artemov, and T. Aytbayev were elected secretaries of the Central Committee.

The plenum dismissed six of the members of the Central Committee bureau, including U. Sydykov, first secretary of the Osh Party Obkom. As everyone knows, interethnic conflicts involving a large number of casualties took place in that oblast at the beginning of last summer. Naturally, the leader of the oblast party organization bears responsibility for that as well.

The plenum also examined the issue of renaming the republic party organization. It is now called the Kyrgyzstan Communist Party.

A.A. Akayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, took part in the plenum and called on communists to direct all their efforts toward the consolidation of public life in the name of the people's interests.